ABOVE: Laleston Point-to-Point. (See page 7).

# Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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THURSDAY, MAY 3RD, 2012



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## TWO-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE

# Brackla man threatened ex-girlfriend

**CROWN COURT REPORT**
**by AJ SICLUNA**

**AFTER splitting with his partner, a fork lift truck driver began sending her messages of a "disgusting and demeaning nature" on her mobile phone and on Facebook.**

Cardiff Crown Court heard they had made recordings of part of their sex life on a mobile phone and he posted these on the net, said prosecutor Gareth James.

Lee Ball (39) was jailed for two years.

Ball, of The Walk, Roath, Cardiff, who had previously lived in Brackla, Bridgend, pleaded guilty to harassment and causing criminal damage.

His course of conduct against the woman lasted eight months, said Mr James.

Judge John Curran said: "You subjected her to calculated and spiteful conduct, leaving her terrified and depressed.

"You took advantage of her in a particularly cruel way. Any calculated campaign of this sort is very serious."

Mr James said that Ball had a relationship for a year with the woman, a mother of two, but it broke down.

Shortly after, she began receiving messages on her mobile phone and on Facebook of a disgusting and demeaning nature.

Mr James said that Ball also made reference to her physical appearance and claimed she was of no morals and was worthless.

She was particularly affected by this because she had told Ball trustingly that her appearance concerned her.

"He knew the impact these messages would have," said Mr James, who added that Ball posted images of part of their sex life on the net.

Mr James said she had consented to the filming, but never dreamt others would see them.

"This was a breach of trust," said Mr James.

He sent her a Valentine card with an offensive message on it, television services were ordered for her without her permission, and he had cosmetic surgery companies contact her.

On one occasion, added Mr James, he damaged the back door of her home and wrote on it offensive messages with a sexual content.

He also sent her an e-mail which read: "You'll get a punch in the face for the trouble you have caused," and another indicated she was going to have her fingers broken and would not type again.

"As a result of all this, she suffered depression, could not sleep and was frightened," said Mr James.

Her father told the police she had become a different person, and he was fearful for her safety.

There were indications that she was also being watched by Ball, he said.

When arrested, he denied being involved in any of the allegations.

Ball's solicitor, Adam Sharpe, said: "I acknowledge she sustained severe psychological harm as a result of his behaviour.

He did not intend to carry out any violence towards her, and she had referred to the relationship as being quite good at times.

"He accepts there were disturbing aspects to his personality and understandably he has received threats himself and moved from Bridgend. His own father disowns him."

He said the offences were out of character and he now has insight into his behaviour.

"He is fearful of reprisals. He has already been in custody 99 days, which gave him time to reflect."

The judge imposed a restraining order of an indefinite length, preventing Ball from contacting the woman.

# 'MOGGYTASTICS' JOIN THE RACE FOR LIFE!

*ABOVE: Sue Dobbs and some of her team who will be running the Bridgend Race for Life.*
*(Photograph by Mandy Thomas – www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk).*

**A BRIDGEND mother of two, who has completed treatment for cancer, has signed up for Cancer Research UK's Race for Life.**

**Susan Dobbs (45), who finished her cancer treatment in July, will be leading a team of 10 colleagues from Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre, the 'Moggytastics', when they take on the 5k challenge dressed as cats.**

**A year on from the date that Susan started her treatment for cancer, she wants the day to be a celebration of life and courage.**

**Susan says: "I am taking part in Race for Life this year as I want to try and inspire others, and also pay tribute to everyone who is currently fighting cancer.**

**"I always thought of cancer as something which happens to other people. I never dreamt it would happen to me.**

**"I also want to raise awareness of anal cancer as it is a cancer which is not spoken about openly.**

**"For those currently experiencing diagnosis, I want to offer reassurance that with treatment, you can come through it, as I am here today."**

**Now Susan and her team are urging other women to join them and take part in the Race for Life in Bridgend on Sunday May 20.**

**Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is an amazing women-only series of events, which raises millions of pounds every year for life-saving research into 200 types of cancer – helping men, women and children across Wales survive.**

**The team are already in training for Race for Life, and also for the Catathon on June 30, an event that Susan has organised to raise money for Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre, where she is the centre manager.**

**Susan says: "We are really looking forward to Race for Life this year and hope that taking on the 5k challenge dressed as cats, will raise a few smiles around the course.**

**"My family and friends have been so supportive during my cancer treatment and this is my way of saying thank you to them and to Cancer Research UK for the life-saving research that they carry out every day."**

**Women can choose whether to walk, jog or run the Race for Life route. Most are able to walk 5k in an hour and all women are welcome, regardless of whether they are taking part on their own or as part of a group.**

***To join Bridgend versus cancer, enter Race for Life at: www.raceforlife.org, or call 0871 641 1111.***


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## Wanted by the police

*POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for information on the whereabouts of 34-year-old Gavin Andrews, who is wanted on warrant for failing to appear at Bridgend Magistrates Court in March.*

*Contact Bridgend Police on 101, or Crimestoppers free and in confidence, on 0800 555 111.*

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# QUIZ GIVES PUPILS SOME SURPRISING FACTS!

*The year-6 Coity pupils with the Bridgend MP.*

# Equality on school agenda for MP's visit to Coity Primary

**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon was invited to Coity Primary last week – to meet headteacher Heather Morgan and year-6 pupils.**

She reported: "Following International Women's Day in March, I have visited primary schools across the Bridgend constituency to talk to their year-6 pupils about the issues women across the world continue to face.

"I met Coity Primary School Pupils to present them with a quiz to raise their awareness of the inequality experienced by women.

"The pupils took part enthusiastically and were surprised with some of the answers to questions such as '*In which decade did it become illegal in the UK to pay women a different amount to men for doing the same job?*' (**answer: 70s**); and '*how much does the average women in full-time work earn compared to the average man in full time work?*' (**answer: difference of 19 per cent**).

"We went on to discuss the equality payments only now being made by the local council to women employees who have been paid historically less than men for doing the same jobs over the years.

"Some of the pupils had been discussing racial inequality and learning about Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King and understood that these people had striven for equality, freedom and justice for everyone.

"Women's equality has progressed enormously over the past century.

"However, around the world, whether at work or at home, women are still treated unfairly and work needs to be done.

"After the quiz, I went with Mrs Morgan for a tour around the school and met all the other classes and left them with an invitation to come and visit me at the House of Commons," the MP added.

# A new lottery scam jumps onto the Olympic bandwagon

**BRIDGEND County Borough Council's (BCBC) Trading Standards team is warning the public to be on their guard against a scam, which claims to be promoted by the 'Olympic Online Lottery'.**

**A Bridgend resident recognised the potential scam and sent the letter to BCBC Trading Standards for investigation. The letter claims the recipient has won a cash prize of £900,000 in a global draw which 'aims to change the lives of millions of people'.**

**According to senior fair trading officer Ellis Roberts, the letter bears all the hallmarks of a postal scam, and should not be responded to.**

**He said: "We often see letters of this nature being sent to our residents. It is very possible that those who operate regular lottery scams have simply added the Olympic logo to this particular letter in the hope that people will part with their money, just before the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games begin.**

**"The letter informs the recipient that their winnings must be collected within six weeks, and that the information must be kept away from the public.**

**"A common tactic by scammers is to rush people into making decisions and to keep the letter a secret, which allows the scam to spread quickly."**

**While many may identify this type of letter as a scam, Trading Standards are aware of people who have lost vast sums of money in these situations.**

**BCBC service manager for trading standards, Helen Picton, explained: "As with most lottery scams, fraudsters are preying on the good will of consumers.**

**"It is tempting to believe that you have won a major financial prize in conjunction with the forthcoming Games, but in reality you are likely to lose money if you respond to these scams.**

**"We want to ensure that nobody is caught out by this or any scam in the weeks leading up to the event, which is why we will be running a campaign during May to raise awareness about various scams, which includes bogus lottery letters."**

***If you believe you have received a letter, email or telephone call informing you that you've won a large cash prize you can contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 040506 to discuss the matter. You can also visit the website: http://www.adviceguide.org.uk.***

# *Bridgend choir welcomes new music director*

**BRIDGEND Male Choir has appointed Rhiannon Williams-Hale (*right*) as its new musical director.**

She takes over from the late John Jenkins, who had been with the choir for almost 10 years when he passed away this year.

Rhiannon is well-known to the choir, having been an accompanist with them from 2003 to 2008.

Born and raised in Barry, where she attended local Welsh language schools, Rhiannon lives in Treorchy, where she works as a free-lance accompanist and as a voice and piano tutor and adjudicator. She is also a percussionist with the Park and Dare Band.

She has never forgotten her roots in Barry, and regularly brings the Ynysybwl Ladies Choir (for whom she is musical director) to Barry to perform, as well as accompanying at other events in the town. She is well-known in Barry as a first-class accompanist and teacher.

Rhiannon has established the first-ever Treorchy Eisteddfod for ages six years to adult, with solo competitions in voice, piano, brass and instrumental.

This is to be held at Treorchy Primary on June 30. Entry forms are available from *rhiannon williamshale@yahoo.co.uk* or by telephoning 07791 375519. The closing date for entries is May 30.

Rhiannon Williams-Hale's first concert as musical director of Bridgend Male Choir is at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff tonight (May 3).

# Quiz League posers

**HERE are your four-for-thought:**

**1.** Who was Foreign Secretary at the beginning of the Falklands Conflict in 1982?

**2**. "*Brevity is the soul of wit*" is a quotation from which Shakespeare play?

**3.** The only time the Winter Olympics were held in a nation's capital was in 1952?

**4.** Widow Twanky is traditionally the mother of which pantomime character?

**A RUDGE**
**(for Quiz League)**

**ANSWERS:**
*1. Lord Carrington.*
*2. Hamlet.*
*3. Oslo.*
*4. Aladdin.*

# A big thank you from Marie Curie

**LOCAL Marie Curie nurses and fundraisers are thanking everyone in Bridgend who has played a part in making the charity's Daffodil Appeal a success.**

An enormous amount of fundraising activity has taken place up and down the country during February and March.

Volunteer collectors were out across Bridgend to encourage people to wear a daffodil pin and make a donation to support Marie Curie nurses.

Money raised from the appeal helps them to provide more free care to people with terminal cancer and other illnesses in their own homes.

Local community fundraiser Katy Tadayon said: "We are so grateful for the support shown by the people of Bridgend for this year's Great Daffodil Appeal.

"The appeal could not have taken place without the help of local volunteers who have worked very hard to raise funds and awareness of the work of Marie Curie Nurses.

"This year in Bridgend, we have raised £4,937.59, which will help us to provide more free nursing care at a time when people need it most."

# Who wants to build what and where?

*BDW Trading Limited – **Parc Tyn y Coed, PH1, Heol Cwrdy, Sarn** – 3 x hoarding signs, 1 x fascia sign and 1 x flag; retrospective application.*
*Ynysawre Community Council – **Queen Street Allotments, Brynmenyn** – Fell ash tree ((1989) OBC No 14).*
*Mr Robert Flint – **6 Tyle Glas, North Cornelly** – Two storey side and first floor side and rear extensions.*
*Mr David Tran – **8 Newcastle Hill, Bridgend** – Change four front windows (article 4 direction).*
*Mr M Khalig – **Sea View Farm, Pyle Road, Porthcawl** – Construction of a 12,000 bird egg production unit.*
*Mrs Melissa Bevan – **17 Coity Road, Bridgend** – Construct driveway to front of property for two cars.*
*Mr Peter Fairgrieve – **18 Coychurch Road, Pencoed** – Change of use from office unit to two flats.*
*Mr Stephen Somers – **41 Mount Earl, Bridgend** – Partly demolish existing garage and construction rear single storey lean-to extension.*
*Mr Lloyd Davies – **9 Morris Street, Maesteg** – Demolish existing and construct single storey rear extension.*
*Mrs A P Cavill – **3 Thomas Crescent, North Cornelly** – Proposed kitchen extension.*
*Mr Michael Clemett – **2 Hillcrest, Pen-y-Fai** – Detached dormer bungalow with garage and access onto hillcrest.*
*Chris Williams Services – **Unit 7, New Tarren Workshops, Dunraven Business Park, Coychurch Road, Bridgend** – Siting of portacabin for office use.*
*St Clares School – **Clevis Lane, Newton, Porthcawl** – Erect ball net in front of building.*
*Mrs S Jones – **10 Iron Way, Tondu** – Erect single storey rear sun lounge with pitched roof.*
*Mr Haydn Lewis – **75 Glynbridge Gardens, Bridgend** – Remove privet hedge, replace with faced block wall to match existing.*
*Mr T Vincent – **21 Summerfield Drive, Porthcawl** – Front and rear dormer extension and ground floor extension.*
*Mr C Jackson – **2 Cedar Gardens, Porthcawl** – Proposed loft conversion/roof extension.*
*Mr L F Wren-Owens – **33/35 Cheltenham Road, Porthcawl** – Loft conversion/roof extension.*
*Mr David Finney – **4 Clos Castell, Coity, Broadlands** – Conversion of roof space to attic and construct dormer.*
*St Brides Minor Community – **Land rear of Heol y Nant/Heol y Mynydd, Sarn** – Erect metal storage shed.*
*Mr Darren Matthews – **55 Wigan Terrace, Bryncethin** – Replacement double garage with stores above.*
*Mr Michael Harris – **25 Cefn Glas Road, Bridgend** – Detached dwelling.*

# Bridgend Bridge Club results

**RECENT results for Bridgend Bridge Club:**

**April 25:** First, Bill Turner and Marjorie Morris; second, Dave Barwood and Geoff Barnes; third, John Beard and Liam Sheridan.

**April 27:** Firs,t Tony Disley and John Evans; second, Mary Moore and Liam Sheridan; third, Bill Turner and Ray Smith.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, there are lessons on Fridays for beginners with Graham Jones also at 7pm; lessons for improvers will resume in the autumn.

*All are welcome ; to register an interest, contact Graham Jones (01446 775953), Steve Burgoyne (01656 661958) or David Newman (01656 649138).*

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

**(UNTIL MAY 10)**

***The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.***

| DATE | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 03 Thur | 04.26 | 8.9 | 17.01 | 9.1 |
| 04 Fri | 05.23 | 9.3 | 17.54 | 9.5 |
| 05 Sat | 06.15 | 9.9 | 18.43 | 10.0 |
| 06 Sun | 07.04 | 10.2 | 19.31 | 10.3 |
| 07 Mon | 07.54 | 10.4 | 20.16 | 10.4 |
| 08 Tues | 08.41 | 10.3 | 21.05 | 10.2 |
| 09 Wed | 09.28 | 10.0 | 21.51 | 9.9 |
| 10 Thur | 10.16 | 9.5 | 22.38 | 9.4 |

***While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.***

**E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484**
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# Army medic recalls his tour of duty in Helmand Province

**A COMBAT medic from Bridgend has been presented with his operational medal, after returning from a demanding six-month tour in Afghanistan.**

Private Robert Derbyshire (24), was deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 15 with 1 Medical Regiment.

The regiment's focus was to ensure that all military units had medical cover and to provide support to the 20th Armoured Brigade's main mission: to help prepare Afghan security forces to take over the security of their own country.

The medics were often based at forward operating bases around Helmand Province – living and working with fighting units and accompanying them on patrols working with members of the Afghan National Army.

A former Bryntirion Comprehensive School student, Robert joined the Army in 2009.

He said: "I was based at a check point and would go out on daily patrols. It was important that even infantry men who were not medics had some basic medical knowledge just in case I or another medic they were with got injured.

"During the patrols which sometimes took place at night we would speak to locals and meet with village elders. During one of these meetings, I noticed a young girl playing who had what looked like a bad skin infection on her face and foot. The girl turned out to be the village elder's eight-year-old daughter.

"I had a closer a look and realised that she was suffering from impetigo. I asked who was treating it but turned out that there were no doctors in the village and that instead an elderly local man who had no medical experience was looking at it.

"The following day, I brought some cream to clean her wounds. I was happy to help them. We went back there every now and then to check that it was clearing up, and I also noticed that her brother had also developed impetigo which I also treated. This is part of our job out there; we are building a real rapport with the locals."

He added: "I am glad that I did the tour but I am happy to be back. Getting my medal was a great experience and I am now looking forward to my leave."

The medals parade took place at the Regiment's camp in Munster in Northern Germany and was watched by the families of the soldiers and also included music from the Band of the Prince of Wales Division.

**JAN KEMAL**

*Photograph of Pte Robert Derbyshire by DOMINIC KING.*

# College student in line for top apprentice title

**SHELLEY FANTHAM (25) from Brackla in Bridgend, has been named winner of the Welsh heat of Dulux Decorator Centre's Apprentice of the Year competition.**

The budding painter and decorator fought off stiff competition from 11 other apprentices in the heat, which was held at the college's Construction Academy on April 25.

Shelley successfully completed a practical work piece, which included elements of wallpapering, stencilling, waterborne glosses and special effects, all within a set time.

"I am over the moon to have finished first. The competition was a real challenge for us all but one that I enjoyed immensely. I'm sure the final will be just as demanding, I can't wait!" she said.

The final is taking place at Accrington and Rossendale College on June 13-14, and Shelley will be competing against seven other regional winners for the 2012 Dulux Decorator Centre's Apprentice of the Year title.

Steve Matthews, Bridgend College painting and decorating lecturer commented: "It is fantastic that Shelley has got through to the final, as this is an extremely professional competition which recognises that painting and decorating apprentices need continuous support, especially in the current climate. I would urge all colleges to put forward their star apprentices next year, as it really does provide them with a platform to showcase their work and talent."

*SHELLEY FANTHAM*

Beverley Whitehead, marketing communications manager at Dulux Decorator Centres said: "The competition is now in its fifth year, and the quality of the apprentice's skills get higher each year. We've had a record number of entrants this year, so all those through to the regional heats should be very proud of themselves, with the talent on display here the future of the industry looks very bright! Shelley did a fantastic job in the Welsh heat and we wish her all the best in the final."

Shelley collected £100 worth of Dulux Decorator Centres vouchers, received a certificate and a goody bag full of decorating materials donated by the company's suppliers.

The final will see the seven regional heat winners and highest runner up competing for the coveted title 2012 Dulux Decorator Centres Apprentice of the Year and £1,000 cash, along with a variety of other prizes donated by suppliers, plus a host of prizes for their college which all of the painting and decorating students will benefit from.

# St Athan could see 1,000 aircraft jobs in next 18 months

**by TIM CHAPMAN**

**CARDIFF Aviation Ltd – a new business headed by Iron Maiden singer and aviation entrepreneur Bruce Dickinson – hopes to create up to 1,000 jobs in the area.**

The company has taken a lease on the Welsh Government-owned 'Twin Peaks' hangar at St Athan to establish a maintenance repair and overhaul operation.

Welcoming the announcement, Business Minister, Edwina Hart, described it as "a strong vote of confidence" in the Government's plans to develop a centre of aerospace excellence at St Athan.

"I am particularly pleased to hear the company is keen to take on skilled mechanics previously employed by the Defence Support Group, create hundreds of highly skilled engineering jobs and also plans to establish an on-going apprenticeship programme as the business grows.

"We have been working closely with Bruce Dickinson and Cardiff Aviation on this exciting project for some time and delighted it has come to fruition.

"This is exactly the type of investment needed – bringing money into the local economy while also providing an international promotion for St Athan Aerospace Business Park and the Aviation Enterprise Zone."

As well as maintenance of airliners and other large aircraft for several major and independent airlines, Cardiff Aviation will have facilities to complete the full range of ancillary aircraft maintenance and training activities.

The company has the expertise and approvals to certify aircraft from many jurisdictions, including the USA.

**ENTHUSIASM**

Bruce Dickinson, the vocalist who used to belt out Iron Maiden hits, but is now a respected airline pilot and businessman, said he had been impressed with the support of the Welsh Government.

"They've really wanted to make this happen, and we've experienced a level of enthusiasm and drive that has been a delight to behold.

"We're coming into this enterprise with the knowledge that we'll also be bringing business to south Wales – a cautious projection is that we'd expect to create up to a thousand jobs within 18 months based on the level of interest and commitment from aircraft manufacturers and operators."

Vale politicians were thrilled with a nugget of good news amid the general economic gloom of recent months.

Vale AM Jane Hutt commented: "I am delighted with the news that Cardiff Aviation, headed by Bruce Dickinson is taking on the Twin Peaks lease at St Athan.

"With the Welsh Government taking the lead with the launch of the St Athan Enterprise Zone in April, and now the announcement of up to 1,000 aerospace jobs, this is a major boost for the skilled aerospace workforce in the Vale and wider area."

Alun Cairns, the local MP, enthused:"This is great news.

"I was only on the site last Friday and am delighted that this has come together.

"This investment is more than welcome and uses the skills of many people who have been laid off after the last VC10 flew out of St Athan a short time ago.

"I am delighted that these skills will remain in the local community."

# MAESTEG AIR CADETS PROMOTED

*ABOVE: Cpl David Lakin (left) and Sgt Alex Hart celebrating their promotions.*

**TWO Maesteg Air Cadets were promoted this week following a selection board run by their Commanding Officer.**

Senior Cadet David Lakin (15) was promoted to Corporal and Corporal Alex Hart (17) was promoted to Sergeant at 631 (Maesteg) Squadron, Air Training Corps.

David is from Cymer, and among his other activities this year, has flown in a Grob Tutor at St Athan and was part of 631's team that took part in the Afan Argoed Challenge.

Alex, from Maesteg, has also flown in a Grob this year and was also part of the Afan Argoed Challenge team.

Earlier this month he attended a week's camp at the RAF College at Cranwell where he flew in a King Air trainer aircraft and visited other RAF stations including RAF Digby for shooting and RAF Coningsby, where they saw Typhoon fighters and historic aircraft of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

At that camp, Alex received an award for Meritorious Conduct. Both Cadets will be representing their squadron in May in an aircraft recognition competition for Squadrons in No 3 Welsh Wing, ATC.

Flight Lieutenant Anthony Davies, Officer Commanding 631 Squadron, said: "David and Alex had to reach a high standard to be promoted and I congratulate them on this achievement"

*631 Squadron meet at Upper Street, Maesteg on a Tuesday and Friday evening and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over.*

# Three-year sentence for Maesteg man

**A BURGLAR from Maesteg has been sentenced to three years in prison following his arrest in connection with a creeper burglary in the area.**

David John Darkes (33), was convicted at Cardiff Crown Court on Thursday (April 26) in relation to the burglary which occurred on Heol Faen, Maesteg, in the early hours of Saturday, December 3.

Items stolen from the house included a handbag containing £1,360 in cash, £220 in vouchers and two mobile phones.

Darkes was arrested and charged after stolen property was discovered in a nearby house.

Maesteg local policing Inspector Steve Rees said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to bring the man responsible for this burglary to justice.

"We can lock up thieves, but we need our communities to lock them out. Whenever you go out or before you go to bed, make sure that you check all windows are securely closed and doors are locked.

"With householders' assistance in ensuring that their premises are secure, we can reduce crime in Maesteg even further, so that our area is a safer place for everyone."

# Poetry night in Porthcawl

**A POETRY night at 8pm on Friday, May 4, at the 'Green Room', 41, John Street, Porthcawl, organised by Sustainable Wales, will have an international flavour.**

Harry Laing and Nicola Bowery are poets, performers, writers and teachers.

Harry emigrated from the UK to live in Australia in 1991. He has published two collections – *Thirst* and *Backbone*.

Nicola is from New South Wales and has published *Goatfish* a powerful collection – available on the night.

Also reading will be Kristian Evans, an artist and poet from Bridgend. Kris is working on his first book, *The Nomad's Garden*. He lives in Kenfig.

A spokesman for Sustainable Wales said: "We always try to make best use of our office space. Thus the 'Green Room' has hosted several wonderful readings and debates, plus providing a home for Raul Arietta's Rock Club. We urge the public to attend this exciting event."

*For more information, telephone Robert Minhinnick on 01656 773627. Entry by donation.*

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# NANTYMOEL CYCLE TRACK CLEAN-UP:

## Volunteers collected 30 BAGS OF RUBBISH!

**ON April 21, Keep Wales Tidy and Nantymoel Neighbourhood Watch group took part in the annual community clean-up, when 10 volunteers turned out and braved the heavy showers.**

**The group concentrated on the cycle track behind Dinam Street and about 30 bags of rubbish were collected, plus a settee and many other items.**

**The clean-up is held twice a year, and this year local PCSO Gareth Evans gave a helping hand.**

**"We would like to thank borough councillor David Jones for taking part, and the council for taking away the rubbish, and Brian Jones from Keep Wales Tidy, for supplying the black bags, gloves and othe equipment," a spokesman said.**

# Porthcawl artists' latest exhibition

**THE Porthcawl and District Art Society has opened its first exhibition of the year with a colourful display of contemporary and traditional painting.**

The judging was undertaken by Mr Gareth Jones, a local professional artist who stated with so many different styles of work, it was a difficult task, but it was a most interesting display of work.

*First place was given to Lynn Ricket*ts for a fantasy painting of 'Morganna with the golden hair'.

*Second place* went to a well-known artist, Clive Callen, for a painting called 'The age of steam.'

In *third place* was another well-known local artist, Peter Martin, with a local scene of 'Nottage'.

*Highly commended:* 'Ancient pathways, Margam', by Wendy Davies-Williams; 'Boats bobbing' by Trisha Simon; 'Summer Flowers' by Jennifer Evans; and 'Move Over' by Lydia Nicholson.

*Commended were the following*: 'Castel Coch' by Yvonne Bevan; 'Run for Home' by Robert Taylor; 'Bluebell Wood' by Gerta Wooler.

The 'Most Original' accolade went to Lyn Ricketts.

All of these paintings are on display at the John Street Gallery, above the museum, and admission is free.

A spokeswoman said: "Many visitors like to come and see the gallery and hopefully the usual street display will start this summer, weather permitting, when all will be able to view and chat with the artists.

"With this digital age upon us, it is very important to keep traditional art and craft alive." **WDW**

***Jennifer Evans with her Summer Flowers***

***Clive Callen with his Age of Steam***

## Kenfig Hill Air Cadets news

# Cadets' visit to aircraft maintenance company

**FIVE cadets, under the supervision of Sgt Kevin Gould ATC and Sgt Richard Peckham ATC, attended St Athan on a cold and blustery April morning for a tour of Ecube facilities.**

Ecube is a new company to the area, and is responsible for dealing with the maintenance and scrapping of passenger aircraft.

The group were informed that the aircraft were being stripped of parts for reuse.

The cadets and staff were shown around a Boeing 737-600, which was just 12 years old, and the first parts are being removed already.

They enjoyed the visit, which was arranged by Sgt Gould.

The cadets took turns to sit in the cockpit and cabin areas and they were given a close external inspection of two Boeing 737-500s, formerly used in Russia which look to face the same fate.

If you are at least 13 years old, why not join 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC?

We are also looking for adult staff members and Civilian Committee members.

We parade on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm to 9.30pm. For more information call 01656 670125 on parade nights.

**LINDSAY THOMAS**

***ABOVE:***
***Cadets in the cockpit of a Boeing 737-600.***

# Bridgend MP joins campaign against Commission cutbacks

**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has joined the campaign to save the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).**

The campaign is seeking to stop planned cuts of 62 per cent to budget and 73 per cent to staff at the EHRC by 2015.

It is argued that these cuts will take equality and human rights back by decades.

Mrs Moon said that the EHRC is an independent body that is crucial to the promotion and enforcement of equality and human rights in Britain. In its first two years it ensured protection for 6 million carers against discrimination in employment and advised 136,000 businesses about avoiding discrimination during the downturn.

The MP said: "The loss of experienced specialist staff, outsourcing of a direct advice helpline for an inferior referral service and closure of regional offices is a scandal. At a time of massive cuts that we know are creating greater inequality, we need a body like the EHRC more than ever before.

"I am particularly concerned by the impact of these cuts to Wales, as the EHRC advice helpline in Wales will be shut, and the regional offices in Bangor and Cardiff will close and shrink respectively.

"The EHRC helpline, currently based across Britain, takes more than 70,000 calls a year. The largest contact group is disabled people.

The regional offices provide local support and gather evidence of emerging local issues.

"We must remember that equality and human rights are about everyone. I recently spoke at a event organised by the Bridgend Coalition for the Disabled about the difficulties disabled people face with public transport. A recent survey found that 47 per cent of disabled people reported being subject to abuse or discrimination on public transport.

"The EHRC is needed more than ever to tackle this and the problems of access to transport that many disabled people face."

## CLASSIC CAR SHOW

***CLASSIC car enthusiasts and lovers of retro styling will descend on Pencoed College on Sunday, May 13, for the annual South Wales Classic Car Show.***

*With more than 700 vehicles entered for the show, organisers are hoping to beat the target of £10,700 given to local charities from money raised at last year's show.*

*It is organised by volunteers from the South Wales Classic Car Club whose numbers will be boosted this year by helpers from the Bridgend and Porthcawl Lions.*

*"This is a great day out, with something for everyone", said club chairman, Alan Thomas.*

*Other attractions include a funfair, band, and trade stalls. Full details are available on the club's website at www.swccc.net.*

# Choir's RWCMD concert date

**BRIDGEND Male Choir (BMC) will provide part of the entertainment at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) today (May 3) when the Russell Sheppard Memorial Trust Vocal Scholarship for this year will be awarded**.

This 10th anniversary year of the scholarship is being dedicated to the memory of the late John Jenkins, founder and chair of the trust and musical director of the choir, until his untimely death in January. John is succeeded as chair of the trust by his daughter, Karin.

The annual scholarship of £1,000 supports students in their postgraduate musical studies, with a vocalist and an instrumentalist being selected in alternate years.

This year it will be a vocalist. The previous vocalist winners, all sopranos, are: Samantha Louise Cole, Angharad Morgan, Jennifer Walker, Helen-Jane Howells, and Llio Evans.

Compere for the evening is David Emanuel and the adjudicating panel comprises Hilary Boulding, principal of RWCMD; Della Jones, Neath-born international opera singer and Philip Thomas, Neath-born, renowned vocal coach and conductor.

# Margam Abbey musical marvel

**BRIDGEND County Borough Youth Orchestra's talented young musicians will be performing at Margam Abbey on Saturday, May 5, at 7pm.**

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Children's Directorate, the evening will showcase the senior, string and jazz orchestras, choir, 'saxophony' and wind band, playing an eclectic mix of pieces ranging from Elton John's 'The Lion King' and 'Let the River Run' by Carly Simon, to Shostakovitch's 'Waltz No 2'.

Bridgend Music Service has continued to prosper, with more than 1,600 pupils currently learning to play musical instruments in schools each week and almost 300 attending weekly rehearsals.

Learning to play an instrument has great benefits in all aspects of life and the discipline of study and performing together develops team spirit and self esteem.

*Tickets are £6.50/£3 concessions. For more information and tickets contact Jeff Ryan on (01656) 642658, 07961 192408, or email: jeffrey.ryan@bridgend.gov.uk.*

# Porthcawl Diamond Jubilee service

**A UNITED Service of Celebration to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, will be held in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Sunday, June 10, at 6pm.**

A Deputy Lord Lieutenant will represent Her Majesty. Invitations are also issued to the High Sheriff and the incoming town and county Mayors.

All town organisations are invited to be present with (or without) standards, banners or flags as appropriate, and residents' personal memories, suggestions or ideas will be welcomed.

Would you please let me have any such memories, suggestions, or ideas **no later than Thursday, May 10.**

*Contact John Berry, associate secretary, Churches Together in Porthcawl on 01656 772002 for further details.* **JB**

# Mayor of Porthcawl visits Sandville Self-Help Centre

**THE Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs, and her consort Bill Stubbs, made a formal visit to the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Kenfig, recently. These photographs by *KEITH E MORGAN* detail their visit.**

*Welcome from Gary Banks, manager.*

*In Joan s log cabin.*

*Outside the shop.*

*ABOVE: Centre of attention, Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE SRN.*

# MP supports the diabetes campaigners

*Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon meets Type-1 diabetes sufferer Hannah Jarret at the House of Commons.*

**Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon met Hannah Jarrett (15) a student from Laleston, at an event in the House of Commons, organised to highlight the challenges of living with Type-1 diabetes.**

Hannah was diagnosed with Type11 diabetes two weeks before her 11th birthday – a chronic, life threatening condition which has a lifelong impact on those that are diagnosed, as well as their families.

400,000 people in the UK have been diagnosed with Type-1 diabetes, and if not properly treated, consequences can include sudden loss of consciousness, coma and even death.

In 2011, the direct cost to the NHS of treating Type-1 diabetes was £1 billion. £700 million of that figure was attributed to treating complications, and with incidents of Type-1 diabetes growing at around 4 per cent a year, it is estimated that by 2036, 650,000 people will be diagnosed at a cost of £4.2 billion.

Ms Moon said: "While talking to Hannah I was very concerned to learn that not everybody with Type-1 diabetes has the same access to treatment. Hannah stressed to me the importance of access to a pump that regulates blood sugar levels, but provision of this very much depends on a person's local NHS trust.

"Hannah also impressed on me the important role schools play in somebody with Type-1 diabetes' life, and that often there is a lack of understanding of the issue, which can make the school day harder than necessary.

"She suggested several simple things that could be done to solve this issue, including more flexibility and understanding of the condition."

# Walkers are set for their world record attempt!

***MAY 5 will mark the official opening of the Wales Coast Path – an 872-mile continuous path around the coast of Wales from Chepstow to the Dee Estuary.***

***It will make Wales the first country in the world to have a continuous path along the whole of its coastline.***

***To mark the opening, Ramblers Wales are organising The Big Welsh Coastal Walk.***

***There will be dozens of simultaneous walks along different sections of the path with the hope of setting a world wecord for the number of walkers on a single path.***

***Bridgend Ramblers will contribute with a walk from the bus shelter at Lock's Common, Porthcawl to Kenfig Nature Reserve and back. There will also be a shorter, family friendly walk as far as Pink Bay.***

***Everyone is welcome to join the walk, starting at 10am. The full walk will be over six miles, but why not come along and walk as far as you're comfortable with and take part in creating a World Record.***

# HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

**BCBC is reminding residents about changes to recycling and waste collections over the May Day bank holiday.**

There are no rounds on Monday, May 7, and all collections will be one day later than usual that week.

Households that usually have a collection on Friday, May 11 will have a special collection on Saturday, May 12 instead. All collections return to normal on Monday 14 May.

# SHARE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

*A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:*

*If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.*

*I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.*

**Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL**
**1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ**
**TEL: 01656 725399**
**email: *tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk***

### Coity castle

**ON June 16, a charity concert will take place in the grounds of the castle, for four children's charities –'Bridgend Young Carers' – children who support adults that have been taken ill or have become disabled; 'Ty Hafan', 'Noah's Ark' and 'Y Bont.'**

There will be seven choirs taking part, including Côr Meibion Penybont (Bridgend male choir) which consists of about 100 choristers and celebrated its golden anniversary in 2010. It received a citizenship award in the same year, in recognition of fundraising for charities – it has raised over £1 million.

### Celebration

**ON Saturday, May 26, between 10am and 4pm, the Leisure Centre is organising a family day of activities, barbecue and a disco, to celebrate the Olympic torch coming to Ogmore Vale.**

The torch is expected to pass the Cwrt Gwalia junction just after 2pm, and it is hoped pupils from Ogmore Vale school will join the fun.

They are already working on projects in the school which will be used to help decorate the valley.

### Railway enthusiasts

**I HAVE been informed that chartered trains will be passing through Bridgend between May 7-12. The first, 'Heart of Wales' will pass through Bridgend at approximately 2.15pm on May 7; it will be towed by two LMSc class 5 steam locomotives numbers 44871 and 45407 (the last engine is named the Lancashire Fusilier)**.

Hundreds of steam locomotives were made for LMS prior to August 1968 when the last steam locomotives were withdrawn from service. There are at present only 12 LMS steam locomotives in existence.

Locomotive 44871 was built in Crewe during the Second World War years and no name of manufacturer is supplied.

On May 11 at about 2.15 pm in Bridgend, 'Central Wales Scenic Rambler' will be towed by two old diesel locomotives.

On May 12 between 10.30am and 10.50am, 'Central Wales Explorer' will also be towed by two old diesel locomotives.

### Nolton concert

**A CHARITY concert is being held to raise money for the urology department at the Princess of Wales hospital, in St Mary's Church, Nolton, Bridgend on May 11 at 7pm.**

Taking part will be Noteworthy mixed voice choir from Maesteg, soprano Sally Kingsbury, who was born in Pontypridd but has spent most of her life in Maesteg.

Sally has played the leading role with Cowbridge amateur operatic society, Maesteg amateur operatic society and the Spotlight theatre company.

### School meeting

**TYNYRHEOL primary school headteacher, Martin Griffiths, is meeting parents in the school hall on May 16 at 2.45pm, to discuss pupils' self-evaluation plans for the term, the formation of classes for next year, and to advise on the transition of pupils who will be leaving to join the comprehensive school.**

Congratulations to pupils on winning the 'Richard Pow Memorial Cup' against an experienced team from Corneli primary school.

Ellie John, Kai Lewis, Mia Lewis and Ethan Riddiford have all been selected to take part in basketball trials for the Bridgend and District county squad. Kai Lewis and Ethan Riddiford were selected for a second trial.

### Tondu school

**PARENTS and friends of year-2 pupils in Garw and Llynfi classes are invited to class assembly tomorrow, May 4, at 10.20am.**

On **Tuesday** (3.30pm to 4.30pm) there is the mixed activities club for pupils from years 3–6 in Miss Handley/Miss Llewellyn/Mrs Lucas' classes.

**Wednesday** – break time rehearsals for the choir years 2-6 with Miss Handley and Mrs Lewis.

**Thursday** – lunch time Ocarina for year-2 with Mrs Pugh; 3.30pm-4.30pm, Kwik cricket skills awards for years 2-6 with Mr Lewis; 3.30pm-4.30pm, Boris Bookworm for years 1-3 with Mrs Pugh; 3.30pm-4.30pm, the environment club for years 2-6 with Mrs Evans and Mrs Richards.

Lola Brown was a winner for the school in Sainsbury's Easter Egg colouring competition, and will be receiving an award from Sainsbury's.

The following children attained 100 per cent attendance throughout last term:

*AFAN class: Llewys Evans, Leyla Griffiths, Owain Hopkins, Rhys Hopkins, Dylan Lewis, Megan Simpson, Matthew Smith, Simon Wang.*

*CYNFFIG class: Wil Davies, Carmen Evans, Maisie Fahey, Bethan Hopkins.*

*EWENNI class: Sophie Barrett, Noah Barry, Melina Dewson, Sam Thomas.*

*GARW class: George Barry, Sasha Flower, Harri Gould, Olivia Herbert, Maddie Rose, Christopher Williams.*

*LLYNFI class: Tegan Chambers, Benjamin Fisher, Dylan Griffiths, Evie Higgins, Jorja Higgins, Connor Jones, Tialeon Popham, Molly Price.*

*OGWR class: Libby Barrett, Amy Brice-Richards, Lola Brown, Eeva Salo.*

*TAF class: Kian Brookes, Matthew Brown, Rebecca Evans, Anesha Hopkins, Ben Pritchard-Davies, Kit Salliss, Cameron Shears.*

*USK class: Jack Bailey, Dannielle Hanney, Bethan Jimson, Loren Taylor, Daniel Thomas, Lewis Wodecki.*

*The following pupils received the most points for good manners last term:*

*AFAN class: Iestyn Johnson, Imogen Merrett.*

*CYNFFIG class: Carmen Evans, Tyler Phillips.*

*EWENNI class: Bobby Zziwa, Leila Carlyon.*

*GARW class: Harley Thomas, Jamie Coombs.*

*LLYNFI class: Jorja Higgins, Rhys Baker.*

*OGWR class: Lauren Davies, Mya-Paige Fahey.*

*RHONDDA class: Dylan Zsirai, Dionne Tapner.*

*TAF class: Megan Trebble, Kit Salliss.*

*USK class: Melissa Lloyd, Daniel Thomas.*

The winners in the good manners competition were taken for a celebration tea in the Hotpots café in Aberkenfig last May 1 with Mrs Pilcher.

### Bridgend U3A

**THE U3A meets in the hall of the Institute for the Deaf in Coychurch Road, Bridgend on the third Monday of the month at 2pm, and visitors are always welcome.**

This thriving charity has a membership of approximately 160, and at a recent meeting Stephen Thomas gave a talk on the Powell Duffryn steel coal companies.

*There will be a birthday lunch for the members tomorrow (May 4) in the Farmers Arms, St Brides (members are advised to arrive at 12.30pm).*

### Social time

***Tondu Wesley Methodist Church members will be holding a social evening in the church to celebrate Christian Aid week on Friday, May 18 at 7pm; included will be a video presentation and talk by Mrs Margaret Harris, followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome.***

### Pen-y-Fai WI

**MRS Jean Griffiths, the president of Pen-y-Fai WI, announced birthday greetings to a number of members at the recent meeting**.

She welcomed Len Davies, gave a talk on his life's experiences, starting when he was 15 years and started work in Gelli Mine in the Rhondda, as a trainee mining engineer with day release.

At 18 years, he decided mining was not for him and signed up with the Welsh Guards. He then did 12 weeks of arduous square bashing and training when his physical stature changed enormously and he grew to be 6ft 7ins tall.

He stayed in the Welsh Guards for 27 years and served in Germany, saw action in Cyprus and Libya, and rose through the ranks.

He was invited to join the Queen's bodyguard in 1984 and was sworn-in in 1985, on the 500th-year anniversary of the formation of the bodyguards by King Henry VIII, and was stationed in St James's Palace.

The Queen's bodyguard is now made up of volunteers, apart from the Sergeant Major Messenger, which he had become. During his time, he officiated at a large number of ceremonies such as church services, the garden parties, investitures and state visits.

He was actually responsible for guarding the body of the late Queen Mother before her burial. During his service, he personally met five American Presidents, and retired at the age of 70.

Chris Phillips gave the vote of thanks and the members enjoyed tea and cake made by Clare Counsel.

*The next meeting is to take place on Monday, May 21 at 7.30pm in Pen-y-Fai Primary School hall, to which visitors and new members are most welcome.*

### Rehearsal

**BRACKLA Community Chorus choristers are advised that there will be an additional rehearsal in the community hall at 6pm on Sunday, May 6 to prepare for the concert for the residents in the Rest, Porthcawl on May 9.**

*There will also be an additional rehearsal at 6pm in the community hall on May 20 to prepare for the charity concert on the May 25 in Aberkenfig Bible Church, Heol Persondy, with Pencoed Silver Band.*

# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS

## School news

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Lucy Roach – class 1, Lauren Howe – class 2, Zuzanna Kubala – class 3, Max Griffiths – class 4, Britney Griffiths and Ben Mulholland – class 5, Tia Hawas and Luke Dingle – class 6 and Cerys Phillips – class 7. The headteacher's award went to Charlotte Roberts.**

**Inter-school matches** – On April 20, the school re-played Maes-Yr-Haul in the quarter-final of the Illtyd Williams Cup. Unfortunately, having held the Cup for the past two years the school's unbeaten run finally came to an end after nearly three years since they last lost a game.

It was probably the school's longest winning run ever. However, although the school played well, with Phillip Burnell scoring a try which was converted by Luke Dingle, Maes-Yr-Haul scored two converted tries to win by 14 points to seven.

In the 'B' game, the school had some revenge when Callum Brennan and Chad Baker scored a try each to win their match 10–0.

On Wednesday, May 9, the school will be ending their rugby season when they play in the Cefn Sevens.

**Mathematics survey** – As a result of the findings from the maths questionnaire, the school has decided to create a home link involving 'real life' maths situations.

Each pupil will be given a record card for them to record 'real life' mathematics. The examples are numerous, including shopping, sporting scores, planning a journey or anything relating to a mathematical equation.

Parents and family help in these activities is recommended to support the learning. The card can be returned to school with the weekly homework and the teacher will record the pupil's progress.

## Fun for all at the May fayre

**RECENTLY, Porthcawl Lions held a very successful book sale in the Seabank Hotel, which was well attended, and also organised a clean-up of the foreshore.**

The organisers would like to thank the hardy volunteers who gave their time on a dry but very cold and windy Saturday to help.

The next event is, of course, the May fayre, which this year is being held at All Saints Church, Victoria Avenue on Bank Holiday Monday – May 7. The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs, will open the event at 11am, and there will be plenty of fun for all with stalls, games, refreshments, entertainment and competitions, with worthwhile prizes for the winners of both.

Children can enter the 'Princesses and Pirates' fancy dress competition and there is also a best kept pets competition.

Entrance is only 50p per person – children accompanied by an adult are admitted free, so why not go along for a fun filled day and perhaps dress up or bring along your feathered or furry friends?

**John Cosson**

## Wellbeing centre

**ACTIVITIES being held by Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, May 9, include: information with Karen from 1.30pm to 2.30pm; bingo from 2pm to 3pm; and the reading group from 3pm to 4pm.**

**There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm-5pm.**

## Community centre

**CITIZENS Advice Bureau – Talbot Community Centre has received a letter from the CAB advising that funding for their project has ceased, and consequently an officer will no longer be attending the centre, in Kenfig Hill, on a Thursday.**

**Disco** – There will be a children's disco on Saturday, May 12, at 5pm prior to the choosing of the Festival Queen.

*For information regarding activities and events at the Talbot, contact Cheryl on 01656 749754.*

## Coping with stress

**JOY OF LIVING groups offer practical advice and techniques on introducing mindfulness into your life at classes every first and third Monday of the month in the Friends Meeting House from 7.30pm-9pm at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ.**

**COMMUNITY NEWS** from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**

by ***Richard Sims***

*Telephone: 01656 746840*
*Mobile: 07802 439679*
***E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net***

## Pyle Community Council

**RETIREMENT – At the final meeting of the outgoing Pyle Community Council, recognition was made of the retirement of Coun Greta Rogers.**

The chair of the council, Coun Kay John, paid tribute to the tireless dedication of Coun Rogers, who has served on Pyle Community Council and its predecessors for more than 30 years.

Coun John thanked her on behalf of the community and her fellow councillors, and was pleased to have the honour of presenting a small memento and a framed certificate commemorating her service to the community.

**Festival Queen**

**ON Saturday, May 12, from 6.pm-7.30pm, Pyle Community Council will be choosing and crowning their Festival Queen, as well as her attendants and flower girls at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill.**

Everyone is welcome to go along. Should anyone wish to enter, the age groups, in years, are: Festival Queen (11-16), attendants (eight-10) and flower girls (five-seven). The evening will include a children's disco and light refreshments.

***Retiring councillor, Greta Rogers (left), being presented with a small memento and framed certificate by the chair of Pyle Community Council, Kay John.***

## DRAWING LESSON AT ART SOCIETY

**ON Thursday, May 10, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome local artist and tutor Heather Simmonds who will lead a practical drawing session.**

This is a very popular event where members usually draw portraits from a live model.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm–9pm) and visitors are welcome.

***For further details about the society, see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.***

## AUCTION

**A GLAMORGAN Hunt auction takes place at Wern Wen Farm, Trebettyn, Llansannor, CF71 7RX on May 11 at 7pm.**

*Free entry. For details, telephone 01446 760477.*

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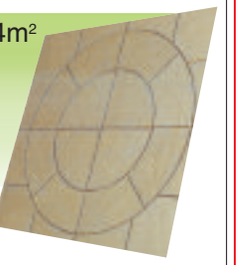

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# DUO SEE DOUBLE AT LALESTON

## (*AND THERE WASN'T ANY NEED FOR WELLIES!*)

PHOTOGRAPHS
by **GLYN EVANS**

**Other pictures are available from this event.**

**Pictures can be purchased by contacting:**
**e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk**
**telephone 07791 228684.**
**Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.**

***THERE were doubles for John Mathias and Bradley Gibbs at Laleston where, amazingly after all the heavy rain, wellies were not even needed.***

*Mathias was successful on The Vicar in the confined and Misamon in the men's open. The Vicar made most of the running to win by ten lengths from Direct Line (Evan David) and Misamon won by 30 lengths from Tiermore (Alan Johns) who had tried hard to match strides but was found wanting in the closing stages.*

*Both The Vicar and Misamon, who was landing a four-timer, are trained by Mathias.*

*The first leg of Gibbs's double came in the restricted when Augustus Gibbons, a six-year-old bay gelding by Oscar, won his third race on the bounce when beating Eric Clough's Kingspark Boy, who was bidding for a three-timer, by 15 lengths and the second when Loughwell Boy came home three lengths ahead of MrSilverLining ( Johnny Flook).*

*Loughwell Boy, who cost his owner/trainer Luke Price just £250 on a trip to Ireland last summer,clocked the day's slowest time- seven minutes and sixteen seconds - probably the slowest time ever recorded at Laleston.*

*Newport-born Alex Dunn, who said she loves returning to Wales, took the ladies' open on her 12-year-old bay gelding Rainbow Tree after a nip and tuck battle with Busy Times (Hannah Lewis) and after both had jumped the last fence almost together.*

*The judge's verdict was a length with Keyneema (KateySquires) a distant third.*

*Connor Flint, a sixteen-year-old pupil of Kenfig Comprehensive School, notched- up his first winner when landing the members' race on Oakfield Legend who came home 30 lengths ahead of Ace High Blue, ridden by James Tudor, who was the last Welshman to win the Lady Dudley Cup - before Tom David last week that is - on Unmistakably in 2006 and not as stated last week.*

*Connor, a former champion pony racing competitor, who won 47 of the 50 races he competed in and who trains Oakfield Legend himself on this showing will surely come in for outside rides next season.*

*The French-bred Bingo Des Mottes, under Mathew Barber, was a fifteen lengths winner of the aged open maiden race from the pacemaking Wiston Dreamer(Alan Johns).However, the result could have been a different one had the challenging 16-1 outsider A Bit Of Class had not unseated Josh Harris at the last fence. Bingo Des Mottes like Augustus Gibbons is trained by Aberthin's Abbi Vaughan.*

*Next Saturday, the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Steeplechases take place at Lower Machen (first race 2pm).*

**BRIAN LEE**

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# ROADSHOW PAYING CASH FOR GOLD, SILVER, COINS AND ANTIQUES 8TH THROUGH 12TH MAY!

By Jason Williams
STAFF WRITER

"It's a modern day goldrush as precious metal prices soar due to the unstable economy—it's a seller's market" says Archie Davis, Roadshow Representative.

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to start your cleaning early this year. The Treasure Hunters Roadshow opens Tuesday 8th May in Bridgend and is looking for antiques and collectables. Remember those Dinky cars you played with as a kid? What about those old Hornby train sets? You know, the ones that have been stored away in the attic for the past 30 years. Well it's time to dig 'em out, along with any other

TREASURE HUNTERS ROADSHOW HAS BEEN TOURING THE WORLD SINCE 2001. THIS YEAR ALONE, WE WILL VISIT 3,000 CITIES AND OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WILL CASH IN!

forgotten treasures. You might be sitting on a small fortune and not even know it.

Roadshow representative, Archie Davis, explains what the event is all about. "It's a chance to get paid today, on the spot, for your classic collectibles. We host over 3,000 shows every year throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Toys, dolls, trains, pocket watches, old advertising signs, gold jewellery, coins, antiques and collectables, just about anything can be sold at the Roadshow. This event is popular because it puts money in people's pockets. At a typical show, we will see hundreds of people during the five day event. We will see a few unusual items, but mostly we will see a lot of old coins, gold jewellery, and a wide variety of antiques and collectibles. Last week at a show in Colchester, a retired dentist walked in with over 2 lbs. of dental gold fillings. "I would say that is pretty unusual, wouldn't you say?" commented Davis. The gentleman received over £5,000 for his gold fillings. He told Davis that over the years he would keep the extracted teeth when the owners didn't want them. He would throw them in a jar and over the years it added up to over 2 lbs. of gold. Now, not everyone has a jar of gold teeth lying around, but according to Archie, more than you might think have some sort of gold they can cash in. Davis says, "The Roadshow receives a fair amount of gold each day of the 5 day event."

Above—Roadshow Specialist analyzes a gold ring brought in by a local resident in Edinburgh.

Broken jewellery, gold coins and dental gold have been the largest payouts so far with today's high gold prices. Archie Davis commented, "Other top categories at the Roadshow would have to be silver crowns and other coins, pocket watches and my personal favourite, old toys." Davis told me a story about a visitor at a recent Roadshow in Newbury. "An elderly gentleman walked into the show and asked if we were interested in old toys. He explained that he had kept all of the toys from his childhood and that they were outside in his car. I walked outside, and to my surprise his car was full of the coolest old toys I had ever seen: big old metals trucks, pedal cars, train sets, cast iron toys, he had it all. At the end of that day, he ended up walking away with over £3,000 for his old toys. His last comment to me was, 'Well, I guess it's time to let 'em go.'"

Whether you have 2 lbs. of gold or a single gold tooth, a car full of old toys or a single Barbie doll, you should visit the Roadshow this week. It's free, it's fun and it could put some money in your pocket, maybe a lot of money!

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# Porthcawl under-12s triumph in sevens

***PORTHCAWL under-12s secured another tournament win at Swansea Uplands on Sunday, April 22.***

*In a sevens competition, they beat Aberdare, Uplands, Treorchy and Bridgend Athletic Seconds in the pool matches, before coming up against Fall Bay in the quarter final.*

*They beat Pontarddulais in the semi, and their old foes, Bridgend Athletic Firsts, in the final.*

*Tries from wing Will Mahoney and scrum-half Ben Roach clinched victory in the final after the Ath had taken an early lead.*

*There were fine displays from backs Bevan Howells, Dan Williams, Joe Stradling and captain Brandon Cooper, with sterling efforts by forwards Louis Protheroe, Ben Collins, Jack Flannagan and Max Budding (sadly Ethan Waters could not play because of injury).*

*Many thanks to all at the Uplands club for a very well-organised event and for the invitation.*

*The photograoh (above) shows the Porthcawl under-12s squad with their trophy.*

**IB**

# Bridgend PACT meetings

***THE public PACT meetings in the Bridgend area for May are as follows:***

***Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr PACT:*** *at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, on Thursday, May 10, at 7pm.*

***Morfa Wildmill PACT:*** *at The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill on Thursday, May 10, at 6.30pm.*

***Coity PACT:*** *at Gilead Chapel, Heol Spencer on Thursday, May 10, at 7pm.*

***Morfa Town PACT:*** *at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on Monday, May 14, at 6.30pm.*

***Newcastle PACT:*** *at the Civic Offices, Angel Street on Tuesday, May 22, at 6.30pm.*

***Litchard and Pendre PACT:*** *at Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace) on Monday, May 28, at 6.30pm.*

***Felindre, Hendre and Penprysg (Pencoed) PACT:*** *at the Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, on Wednesday, May 30, at 6pm.*

***Brackla PACT:*** *at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend on Thursday May 31, at 6.30pm.*

*In June:*

***Cefn Glas, Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd PACT:*** *at Bryntirion Juniors, Heol Y Frenhines on Monday, June 11, at 6.30pm.*

***Oldcastle PACT:*** *at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, on Wednesday, June 20, at 6.30pm.*

*The* ***Coychurch PACT*** *is awaiting a new date.*

## IOLO WALK

**WALK in the footsteps of Iolo Morganwg on May 12 with Transition Cowbridge, where you can experience Old Hall Gardens and his famous shop, before moving on towards Aberthin and Stalling Down, the site of his first Gorsedd meeting.**

**Refreshments in the Bush Inn in St Hilary, then return via Llanblethian to finish at The Bear, Cowbridge – Iolo's watering hole – to share in his satirical poetry.**

# School holiday sense?

**READER'S VIEW**

**I WOULD like to inform any readers who were affected by the difference in the school Easter holidays between different local education authorities that this is set to continue until 2016.**

Next year, February half terms, as well as Easter, will not be the same across authorities in Wales.

I teach six miles away in Bridgend, but live in the Vale, where my child attends school.

Obviously, if these dates are set in stone, I will be taking my child out of school during term time in order to spend my half term with my family.

I have never done this before, but feel I have no choice.

I welcome any comments from the people who set these dates as to whether there will be any opportunity to reset them and, therefore, stop this ludicrous and preventable situation.

***(Name and address supplied )***

# BRIDGEND COCAINE DEALER IS GIVEN FIVE-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE

## CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

**COCAINE with a street value of £18,000 was found in the cooker in the kitchen of a house in Bridgend when police carried out a search, Cardiff Crown Court was told.**

**Also in the home of 48-year-old Jeffrey O'Gorman, an ex-psychiatric nurse, was drugs paraphernalia including digital scales, mobile phones, and names and addresses, plus £4,360 in cash and a receipt for a diamond ring which had cost £2,750, prosecutor Gareth James told the court.**

**O'Gorman, of Picton Avenue, was jailed for five years, after pleading guilty to possessing the class A drug with intent to supply, and possessing criminal property.**

**Said David Wynn Morgan: "I am going to sentence you quickly. The facts are serious and it is the second time you have appeared for trafficking class A drugs."**

**The court heard O'Gorman had received in the past a four-year sentence for supplying drugs.**

**Mr James said that on January 27, police officers went to O'Gorman's house to carry out a search.**

**He was not there but in the garden were two pit bull dogs.**

**When he arrived, he told officers there was a small amount of cocaine and some steroids in the property.**

**In a cooker, the officers found 247.73 grammes of cocaine, with a cutting agent. On the street, it would be worth up to £18,000.**

**"We say O'Gorman played a significant role in the offences," said Mr James.**

**His counsel, Daniel Williams, said:**

**"He has pleaded guilty without any qualification and knows he faces a substantial sentence. It was motivated by money, but not all the cash recovered came from drugs.**

**"He left school at 15, and was a miner before becoming a psychiatric nurse.**

**"His mother is dependant upon him because of illness. He was a hard worker and was proud of providing for his family, but in the late 1990s, he was found to be suffering from paranoid schizophrenia.**

**"His decline, which was long and sorry, began when he was divorced.**

**"He is ashamed of trading in class A drugs."**

# *Police hunt graffiti culprit*

***POLICE in Maesteg are appealing to the community for information, after graffiti vandals recently targeted skate park facilities at the Welfare Park.***

*The skate park, which had received a £2,500 revamp just days before being damaged, was defaced with graffiti sometime between Sunday, April 22 and Thursday, April 26.*

*Officers are now asking the public to help them to identify the culprit behind the distinctive 'FELIX' tag that has been sprayed all over the park's ramps.*

*Local PCSO Kim Harris had recently been working with young people in Maesteg to rejuvenate the skate park. On the weekend of April 21 and 22, PCSO Harris, PCSO Dave Johnson, and street artist Lloyd Roberts, redesigned the park's skate ramps with a group of local children.*

*PCSO Harris said: "The kids put a lot of effort into revamping the skate park and they were so pleased with the result. It's such a shame that someone has now ruined all their hard work.*

*"The park is really important to the local community as it provides a place for youngsters to go and keeps them off the street, which in turn leads to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and youth annoyance in the area."*

*Anyone with information is asked to contact Maesteg Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111*


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# Vale voters head for the local polls

## TIM CHAPMAN REPORTS

**TODAY, Thursday, May 3, voters in the Vale of Glamorgan are heading for the polls to decide which local candidates should represent them – at a time when council budgets are arguably under greater pressure than at any time for 40 years.**

It means that whichever majority political grouping results – whether a single party or a coalition of parties – difficult decisions on funding and services will have to be made.

So what have been the main two areas of concern raised by local voters on the doorstep and in the street?

**Gordon Kemp**, the Leader of the Vale Council said enviromental concerns and the LDP had been topics high on the Vale election agenda.

"Generally, it is small environmental issues which have been raised on the doorstep, but it is these which are important to the community.

"Residents have indicated that they are happy with the co-mingled recycling and are happy with our already announced intention to introduce strong enforcement measures in respect of dog fouling and littering."

Coun Kemp said the LDP had been raised, pointing out that the process of delivering it started during the days of the Labour-Plaid coalition in 2007.

He explained: "There has been a six-week consultation on the draft plan, and the views of those who responded will be considered before the final plan is ready for consultation in 12 months' time.

"Contrary to the claims made by the Labour Party, it cannot be scrapped."

**Neil Moore,** the Leader of the Vale's Labour group, which claims it *can* scrap the Local Development Plan, explained: "The main area of concern is the LDP, which is flawed, unsustainable and very contentious.

"If Labour is elected to run the council, we will scrap it and go back to the drawing board and start afresh.

"Other issues have also been experienced. The appalling state of the roads, with pot-holes everywhere is probably the most important issue, but this is just one of a number of matters that have been raised."

Plaid Cymru said road problems and a regeneration report had been uppermost for people in Barry.

**Nic Hodges,** the local Plaid leader, said: "One issue has been the continuing delay in the Tories reintroducing parking wardens into the Vale. The resulting traffic chaos is bad for residents, tourists and business. The excuse of using Cardiff's experiences as a pilot is a false one and was used to try to cover their delays.

"The failure of the Tories to redevelop Barry Town centre has been both shocking and a scandal."

Coun Hodges said that an excellent consultants' report had been neglected by the Conservatiives which would have rejuvenated Holton Road.

"It took Plaid Cymru to bring this report to light and force the Tory cabinet to discuss it openly, after sitting on it for over two years."

**INDEPENDENTS**

This year, there are 144 people standing in 23 Vale wards, with more independent candidates than ever before – a total of 14.

**Gwyn John,** of Llantwit Major First Independents, said residents were dissatisfied with the way the Conservative-run council had treated Llantwit.

"They have failed to fund a new comprehensive school in Llantwit Major, and after building schools in Cowbridge and Penarth, there is no money left to build in Llantwit.

"People are furious at the lack of funding for the town, the third largest in the Vale after Barry and Penarth, and angry at the closure of the cash office."

A number of independent candidates are standing in Barry, supported by the FocusBARRY group.

Independent candidate, **Dennis Harkus**, said: "The two main topics are too many new houses with no infrastructure to support them and the culture of the Vale Council.

"Many Barry and Rhoose people feel the council policy to guide thousands of houses to Barry and neighbouring communities without regard to the highway infrastructure is totally unacceptable.

"People's perception is of a lack of openness and transparency in Vale Council business and a total failure, and unwillingness, to involve people in the decision-making process. It's our money and our community."

*Candidates have also reported matters of concern such as local government transparency in decision making, 'value for money' in spending, disillusionment with politicians in general and fly-tipping.*

## Group AGM

***THE annual general meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, May 14, at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.***

*The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.*

*The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.*

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# Welsh Government to act over illegal fly grazing in Vale

**THE Welsh Government has been urged to make sure that laws are in place to tackle the problem of 'fly grazing' – the dumping of horses on private land.**

At a recent Question Time in the Senedd, the local regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, called on the First Minister to tackle 'fly grazing' and ensure that residents across the Vale do not see a repeat of the traumatic scenes witnessed throughout the winter months.

He said: "I am happy to hear that the First Minister recognises what I have been saying for some time, which is that a co-ordinated response is required to deal with the owners of these horses being left to graze illegally on private land.

"The animal welfare issues that have arisen out of this debacle have been extremely distressing for residents, as have the public safety concerns, with horses escaping on to public highways and even the runway at Cardiff Airport.

"Naturally, it will also be necessary to consider whether existing legislation has the teeth to deal effectively with the owners of these horses, who have been flagrantly flouting the law for far too long.

"Animal welfare laws must be sufficiently robust to tackle the issue and it is vital that we look closely at the current system of 'abandonment notices' as well as legislation concerning the fit and proper ownership of animals.

In his reply, the First Minister said: "In my area, there has been fly grazing in cemeteries. Horses have got into one cemetery not far from where I live and are still there, to the great distress of people who have loved ones buried there.

"It is well known who the owners of these horses are. We will work very closely with all local authorities to ensure that proper enforcement takes place.

"If there is a need to strengthen the law in this area, we will of course consider that as well."

## Leekes defies recession!

***LEEKES has announced that the last quarter has seen its best sales performance for more than three years, with sales up by over 10 per cent compared with the previous year.***

*This news coincided with the recent ONS announcement that the economy has slipped back into recession after GDP for the first quarter of 2012 fell by 0.2 per cent.*

*Peter Martin, Leekes Store Operations Director, said he believed that retail sales were a far stronger indication of economic strength than the headline GDP figures.*

*"Retail sales are always the first to suffer as the economy runs into difficulty and people tighten their purse strings. However, in a similar way, we are the first to see the beginning of sustained recovery as the economy strengthens and people start to spend.*

*"While last year continued to be challenging, sales in key home improvement lines, such as kitchens and bathrooms, remained healthy.*

*"Since December 2011, we have seen a terrific increase in sales across all areas, which we believe is led by a pent-up demand for goods that the public have been putting off purchasing for the last few years.*

*"Overall, the company is more than £3 million up in sales, compared to the same period last year, and we are seeing an acceleration in sales which we believe will continue throughout the rest of this year."*

## Local company's charity golf day

**THE Vale and Bridgend branch of the NFU Mutual Insurance is organising a charity golf day in aid of the Alzheimer's Society ,at the Grove Golf Club near Porthcawl, on Friday, May 18.**

Teams of four, at £175 per team, are invited to enter, although individual entries at £45 are also accepted.

The format for the day will be the best three stableford scores per hole to count, with excellent prizes for the best team and also the best individual score in both men's and ladies' sections.

In addition, there are high quality prizes for the winners of the longest drive and for being nearest the pin on the par-3 holes.

A two-course meal will also be available to all contestants, together with the opportunity of bidding in the silent auction for one of the many other star prizes.

*Anyone interested in playing or making a donation to the Alzheimer's Society is asked to contact Mrs Pam Harris at the NFU Mutual Insurance on 01656 653111; or Tony McCarthy on 07813 902149.* **TMcC**

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# Out and About with The GEM

## THE AVENGERS SET BENCHMARK FOR THE BLOCKBUSTER SEASON

**SINCE the second wave of superhero hysteria on the big screen, Marvel Comics have proven to be the market leaders.**

While Batman's second outing, *The Dark Knight*, is the biggest comic book movie of all time, the success of *Iron Man, Hulk, Thor* and *Captain America* on the big screen has far outweighed DC Comics' recent efforts with *Superman* and *Green Lantern.*

*Avengers Assemble* sees the above-mentioned heroes (played by Robert Downey Jr, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans respectively) along with Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and Black Widow (Scarlett Johannson) team up under the auspices of Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) when earth is threatened by Thor's evil brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston).

Will the Avengers be able to stop him,or will Loki and his army have the final say?

You could half argue that the individual films that showcase the members of the Avengers have been glorious, high-budget trailers for the group's first big screen team up.

Though the films have entertained and been hugely successful, they have contained plenty of nods and winks along the way; while *Iron Man 2* seemed to spend more time on the foundations of the group than on the story of that film.

So with expectations from fanboys and the public alike set to extremely high, does *Avengers Assemble* (prefer the title *The Avengers*? Me too) manage to match or even exceed them? The good news is that it most definitely does.

The individual parts add up to a satisfying whole that certainly sets the benchmark, not just for the likes of *Batman* and *Spiderman*, but for summer blockbusters as a whole.

The main worry was how the film was going to handle such a rich mix of characters, all with an avid fanbase, and all needing to be served by the machinations of the story.

Thankfully, under the auspices of Joss Whedon (also in the director's chair) and Zak Penn (who has experience with both *The Incredible Hulk* and *X-Men 2*) the characters come across vividly and richly defined – all having a part to play and none feeling marginalised by the needs of the story.

Whedon and Penn's story plays out as a typical comic book movie – evil attempting to take over the world with the aid of an army – but on this simplistic foundation intelligence and spectacle are laid in equal measure. The film balances incredibly well the notions of identity, morals of the supposed good guys and the importance of heroes in this cynical age with explosions, fight sequences and the expected action beats.

Whedon's skill as a director has always leaned more towards actors than delivering bang for your buck, but given such a large toy set to play with, he comes up with the goods, the film kicks off with a well constructed set-piece involving an escape and never really lets its foot off the pedal.

The middle act sags a touch only due to the needs of the story, all that action requiring some breathing space for story.

But Whedon marshals all the elements into a credible whole, and hopefully the success of this film will make him more than just the celebrated hero of the genre community – he can certainly achieve even more than is on show here.

The cast are all more than well versed in their characters so play very much as you would expect: Robert Downey Jr is witty and charismatic, Chris Evans noble as the man out of time, Chris Hemsworth stoic as the man out of place, while newcomer Mark Ruffalo nails the human element of the Hulk, and the likes of Scarlett Johannson, Jeremy Renner and Samuel L Jackson are all impressive in built-up roles.

Tom Hiddleston really hits the spot as the evil Loki, vying with Ruffalo as the finest turn on show. Hiddleston delivers a boo-hiss villain with added clout and backstory, and even if his alien army feels a touch faceless, the actor is still coldly chilling and a viable threat to our heroes.

While the future for the group will no doubt be built up by further individual outings for the heroes, hopefully the next installment of their team-up won't be too far away as *Avengers Assemble* is a fine first outing for this dream team and a thrilling adventure ride in its own right.

**VERDICT:** The fruits of Marvel Comics' films have come to fruition in the best possible way, as *Avengers Assemble* is a truly superb blockbuster.

With rich characters and an engaging storyline dynamic, Joss Whedon manages a fine balancing act that works extremely well and sets the benchmark for the summer – *Spiderman* and *Batman*, it's over to you! ***Highly recommended.***

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Iron Man* (2008), *Thor* (2011), *Captain America* (2011)

**SCREEN TALK**

**by GARETH JAMIESON**

*Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk*

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D720.**

● **£2,000:** 186723.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £9,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 6 2 6 6 9 8 , 225745, 614791, 663103, 830554, 153201, 361445, 801911, 349979, 304645, 671135, 299754, 372941, 615862, 390254, 763056, 266821, 494616, 848414.

● **£5:** 7 3 5 9 2 5 , 713671, 222535, 862007, 473418, 907294, 216244, 396064, 192643, 834365, 786566, 405370, 706296, 522408, 611926, 725228, 802522, 454249, 658095, 114432, 513352, 883014, 731052, 904144, 147008, 718763, 536591, 408837, 151685, 214900, 311013, 337588, 608013, 827042, 711495, 751482, 501667, 724376, 178524, 601062, 561852, 522445, 717476, 269736, 203338, 542144, 679371, 948069, 310065, 431910, 105414, 700762, 328828, 441684, 163021, 616366, 991479, 529484, 929045, 401446, 681919.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

*For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.*

### CHARITY FASHION SHOW

***THERE will be a fashion show, by M&Co, in aid of Cancer Research UK on Thursday, May 17 in the Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Admission £5. There will also be a raffle.***

## Boots on for the Big Welsh Walk

**ON May 5 and 6, keen walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts will be gathering along the Welsh coastline to take part in a weekend of walking events to mark Ramblers Cymru's Big Welsh Coastal Walk.**

This mass participation event is to celebrate the launch of the Wales Coast Path – 870 miles of walking, enjoyment and access to the seaside for everyone to enjoy.

There will be events taking place along almost every stretch of the Welsh shore from short seaside ambles to exhilarating cliff top hikes, as well as the Welsh Government's official launch events in Cardiff; Aberystwyth and Flint.

Angela Charlton, director of Ramblers Cymru, said: "The launch of this Coast Path is a milestone for access to our countryside and coast and to celebrate it we're calling for everyone who can to appreciate the magnificent opportunities that this path will make available.

Ramblers' members across Wales will be involving their local communities in a variety of walks to suit everyone.

*visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/wales to find details of coastal walks near you on the Big Welsh Walk map – don't forget to register your attendance with the walk leader. For more information on the official launch events please visit: www.walescoastpath.gov.uk.*


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# Out and About with The GEM

## Spring fayre

THERE is a free children's fancy dress competition, with prizes for the best fancy dress and bargains for all the family at the annual spring fayre at St Paul's Church Hall, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, this Saturday (May 5), opening at 2pm.

Stalls include books, DVDs and CDs, gifts and cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and bottle stall and everything will be sold at St Paul's famous bargain prices.

Admission is 50p, children are free and there will be a big raffle with a first prize of £50 and many other prizes including drinks and grocery hampers.

Refreshments will be on sale and doors open at 2pm in St Paul's Church Hall.

## Valeways walks

On Sunday, May 6, at 10.30am, a Nordic walking 'taster' session starts from the main car park at Porthkerry Park, Barry, led by Howell Isaac (Age Cymru).

## Tabletop sale

THERE will be a tabletop sale at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on Saturday May 12 from 10am-12.30am. Good quality goods available, entry is free.

## Care and repair service

PENSIONERS living in their own homes and finding tasks difficult, such as repairs and improvements, can have free advice from Care and Repair, which covers the Vale, on Tuesday, May 8, at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, 10am–12 noon. *Call 01446 732385.*

## Walking festival

THE third annual Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival will take place on May 11-13 with three eight-mile walks, a 'Vale Ale Trail', Nordic walking tasters and the Welsh Walking Group.

For further information, go to the website www.valeways.org.uk or telephone the Valeways office, Monday to Wednesday on 01446 730707.

## Kyle's Goal charity dinner

A CHARITY gala dinner and dance will be held on Friday, May 11, at the Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff (7pm).

The compere will be the BBC presenter Sian Lloyd, with dancing to Nigel Hart's Bogart Band and a disco.

Proceeds are in aid of Kyle's Goal, supporting The Charity Headway (the brain injury association).

*For tickets for the event, telephone Michael Bishop on 02920 617788.*

## Penarth parade

AS part of activities planned for Carnival Day during Penarth Festival Week, a classic car and walking fancy dress parade will again have 'The Carnival' at its theme.

Classic cars and motorcycles, and a walking band, will accompany the entrants on Saturday, July 14.

*Contact Penarth Town Council for further details.*

## Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D719.

- **£9,000:** No winner
- **£2,000:** Swansea, 853079.
- **£10:** *782576, 325002, 388009, 276565, 373229, 652376, 744947, 254227, 758673, 723172, 394103, 292818, 362513, 756484, 284471, 969948, 677100, 840287, 681600, 538347*
- **£5:** *352668, 509239, 251597, 409275, 174810, 830029, 818893, 853270, 834438, 142531, 623693, 442498, 432206, 571708, 168858, 704910, 271766, 280707, 840451, 369494, 385789, 204705, 765622, 530497, 310235, 817480, 606072, 532436, 638355, 448447, 424931, 862262, 195527, 363996, 360222, 357379, 424342, 987255, 316306, 901674, 608245, 515720, 650209, 449188, 884950, 821140, 110485, 309186, 858981, 713422, 233664, 355935, 890627, 890867, 678627, 675533, 182517, 787669, 525477, 270896.*

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

*For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.09.*

## Mini Olympics at the May Day fayre

***THIS year's May Day fayre at the Cogan Recreation Centre, near Penarth Leisure Centre, looks set to be the best yet, with the youth Mini Olympics taking place.***

*A trained team of workers and volunteers will be helping youngsters raise money for Breast Cancer Care through sport.*

*All 11-18 year olds in Penarth and the Vale are invited along on the day, pay just £1 and join in this exciting event.*

*The fayre itself will have games, stalls, entertainment and tasty treats for all ages to enjoy, and admission remains free.*

*It will be open between 2pm and 5pm on Monday May 7.*

*The May Day fayre is being run as part of IgniteHope 2012, in partnership with several Penarth churches and other organisations.*

*IgniteHope is a biannual Bank Holiday weekend event, where many hundreds of young people from across south Wales, commit to helping, supporting and serving the communities in which they live, while having fun at the same time.*

## Rogation festival at Amelia Trust

***A ROGATION festival is to be held at the Amelia Trust Farm on Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13.***

*It is a fundraising event for the farm. On the Saturday, the festival will be open from 11am–5pm and on Sunday, 12 noon–4pm.*

*The weekend will include craft stalls, bouncy castle, competitions on the Saturday, a dog show on the Sunday, live music, food and refreshments.*

*Rogation Sunday is the fifth Sunday after Easter, and the custom for this day is for a procession to walk the boundaries, blessing the crops and the animals within.*


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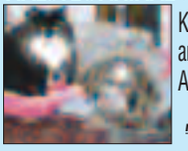
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Saturday 2nd - Tuesday 5th June - Margam Kite Festival. (Entry fee applies for Monday 4th).
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## Another Great GEM reader competition in conjunction with BEYOND THE BORDER

**Wales International Storytelling Festival**

**FOUR LUCKY WINNERS will receive . . .**

2 x family day tickets for Saturday, 30th June or Sunday 1st July.
2 x pair adult evening tickets for Friday 29th June or Sunday 1st July.

Correct entries will be drawn out of a hat – 1st and 2nd prize is the family ticket, 2 runners up of adult tickets.

*No correspondence will be entered into. No cash alternatives available. Prizes are for entry to the event only, not travel or other costs.*

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*(a) Casino Royale (b) Coronation Street (c) Cinderella*

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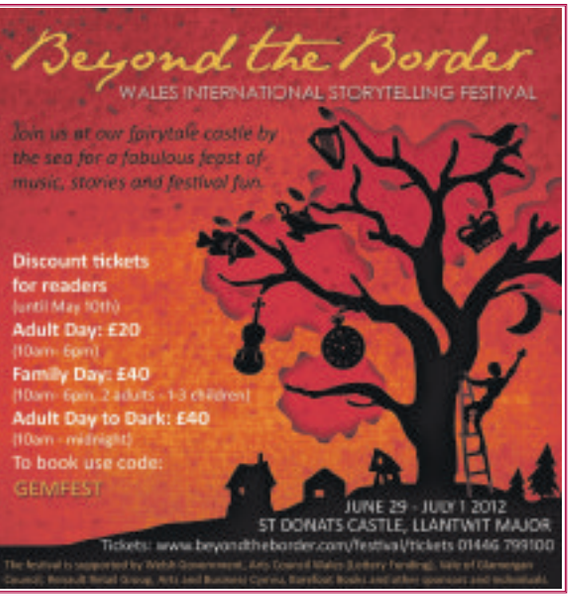
*All entrants must be 18 or over to be eligible.* Closing date Friday, 18th May
The winning entry will be announced on the What's On pages of the GEM Thursday, 24th May



# Bryn Hafren produces best female 'speaking' team in UK

**BRYN HAFREN School was placed a commendable third in the national final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, held at Glyndwr University, Wrexham on Saturday, April 28.**

The team from Barry, who were entering for their first time in the senior section (14–17-year-olds) were competing against teams across the UK, from Scotland to the south of England.

The winning team were from Oathall Community College in Sussex and the runners up were from Holsworthy Community College in Devon.

"As these teams were all male, this effectively makes the Bryn Hafren team the best female team in the UK!" a spokeswoman said.

Representing Rotary RIBI Region 6, covering Wales and part of the midlands, the Bryn Hafren senior team, chaired by Aimee Delaney; their Speaker, Lissie Wallington and their Vote of Thanks given by Sarah Jayne Griffiths, gained well-deserved praise from the judges.

Taking an adaptation of the forthcoming 2012 Olympics as their chosen presentation topic: "*Play up, play away and play the fool: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality,*" the Bryn Hafren students showed extensive knowledge and understanding of their subject, adding humour and spontaneity.

Presenting the prizes, RIBI national president Ray Burman congratulated the Bryn Hafren team on their success, saying that this competition demanded all competitors to be articulate, knowledgeable and calm under pressure and that it had been a delight to listen to them at the RIBI Youth Speaks final.

President of Barry Rotary Club, Dave Ball, also paid tribute to the Bryn Hafren team and their teacher, Angela Burd, on an outstanding achievement.

*Contact Barry Rotary Club membership chairman Peter Battle on 01446 710204 or visit www.ribi.org for further information about Rotary.*

***Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School senior team with RIBI president Ray Burman, Barry Rotary Club president and teacher Angela Burd; Sarah Jayne Griffiths (Vote of Thanks), Lissie Wallington (speaker) and Aimee Delaney (chairperson).***

## EISTEDDFOD QUIZ

***A QUIZ to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod at Llandow, will be held at St Francis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry, on Saturday, May 5 at 7pm.***

***Tickets £6, which includes light refreshment. Bring your own wine. This is an English language event. Contact Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784 for tickets.***

# SERVICE GAINING A FRIENDLY ADVANTAGE FOR THE OVER 50s

***RIGHT:*** *Sandra Roberts, Friendly AdvantAGE Manager, and partners with the Vale AM.*

**THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, hosted the launch of a Vale Centre for Voluntary Services: (VCVS) project at the Senedd last week.**

She congratulated the VCVS on its innovation, imagination and success in securing a Big Lottery Grant to open up opportunities for the over 50s in Cardiff and the Vale.

She said that several partners are on board with the Friendly AdvantAGE project, to help deliver different aspects of 'be-friending' for over 50s and their carers. She went on: "It was great to host this launch at the Senedd and to make the connections with my role as Equalities Minister.

"This is an exciting new project taking action to engage and empower over 50s in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

"It aims to open up opportunities for disabled people, carers and those who have not had access to the advantages of the digital world we live in.

"This is an important project with lessons to be learnt across Wales."

# *Rain stops just in time in the Vale!*

**THE heavy rain that hit the Vale, stopped just in time – as far as travellers were concerned.**

**The rain ceased on Tuesday afternoon; in the morning, the Vale Council had issued a warning, asking motorists to avoid travelling due to the large amount of water on the roads.**

**A particular problem was in Lavernock Road in Penarth, where the road was badly flooded, due to an overflow of the public surface water sewer.**

**A spokeswoman said: "The Vale Council is working to keep the road open and Welsh Water has been asked to make the sewer a priority."**

**Roads through Pendoylan and other Vale villages were subject to flooding, and Dyffryn Gardens was closed on Tuesday but was expected to be open on Wednesday.**

**The Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line was flooded between Bridgend and Cardiff Airport for a time in the morning.**

**A spokesman for Arriva Trains reported: "Services were disrupted and we had to lay on buses. However, services were running again by 11am."**

# FRACKING INQUIRY

***THE public inquiry into the controversial plan to drill in Llandow to test for shale gas, will begin on May 22.***

***Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd has appealed against the Vale Council planning committee's decision to refuse permission to conduct exploratory drilling to determine the commercial potential for extracting natural gas.***

***The company has already completed similar test drilling in several sites in south Wales, and claims that drilling in the Vale is necessary to complete the geological picture.***

***However, campaigners have raised the spectre of a 'fracking' operation, where sand, water and chemicals are pumped into fissures in the shale beds, several hundred metres below ground, and are opposing any drilling.***

***The public inquiry will take place in the Board Room, Docks Office, Barry, starting at 10am on May 22, and is expected to last two days.***

# College praised

**DEPUTY Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert AM, has visited Cardiff and Vale College to congratulate it on winning a prestigious award for overcoming deprivation.**

The minister presented college staff and partners with a certificate to mark the success of CAVC's Entry to Vocational Skills (EVS) course.

It was the only Welsh college to win one of the Association of Colleges' Beacon Awards.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# In Business Update

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# Dancers stun audience in charities show...

**BLISS DANCERS held their fifth show in April 2012 at the Dinas Powys Parish Hall, raising £214 for Cancer Research UK and £224 for the RNLI.**

The dance school managed to deliver an amazing performance with audience members commenting on their fantastic choreography and polished dance routines.

Bliss Dancers teach street, modern jazz and commercial dance within the Vale of Glamorgan for ages three to adult, providing a fun and relaxed place to learn and perform dance. The school has now announced that it will be opening two new classes in the Trinity Church Hall, Barry, and at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Dance teacher Laura said: "I am extremely proud of my dancers, they have improved so much since we opened three years ago. I'm very excited to be opening two new classes to expand the school.

"I am from and live in the Vale, so I wanted to create my dance school within the Vale area too."

*Bliss Dancers welcomes any new members. For more information, call Laura on 07545 696760, or visit: www.bliss-dancers.com*

Bliss Dancers

Bliss Dancers is a professional and affordable dance school.

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# Get your skates back on!

**AT Bridgend Cycle Centre, we have been servicing the cycle community for the last 20 years.**

We have recently expanded the shop and now sell Quad Skates to the Roller Derby and Recreational Skating community.

Our local skating groups, Cardiff Roller Collective (Bridgend), Rink Ratz Recreational Skating and the Bridgend Roller Disco Revival meet and train on a weekly basis. They are always looking for new people to join in this new skating phenomenon in south Wales.

*Contact us for further details if you would like to join any of these groups. Absolute beginners are welcome; call 01656 766006.*

# Serving Wales' farmers

**RIVERLEA have always got their finger on the button! Check out our regularly updated website for the latest stock, product news, parts, service and finance offers, and much more.**

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***Keep your finger on the pulse and click Riverlea on the website www.riverlea.co.uk – Serving Wales' farmers!***

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# In Business Update

## FRIENDLY, TALENTED APPROACH TO TATTOOING

**PINS N NEEDLES Tattoo Studio has been trading for seven months, and we have had a lot of support from the local community.**

**We have two artists in the studio, James Harrison and Jamie Rees, who are friendly, approachable and very talented.**

**At Pins N Needles, we pride ourselves on our custom tattoo work offering great value for money; we do colour work, black and grey, and cover ups.**

***For more information or bookings, please call into the shop, call us on 01446 796158, or contact us on Facebook. (We are located above Il Vesuvio restaurant)***

## Say (Riverford) cheese for proper farmhouse taste!

**OUR new Riverford cheese shop is now open, and we hope you'll be as pleased as we are about it!**

The aim is to bring you a range of proper farmhouse cheeses all in one place, so you can explore the amazing variety on offer. They are all from small-scale organic producers, and come with bags of character and flavour.

*Creamy, crumbly, oozy, blue...*

Whether you fancy something lemony and soft like our High Weald Dairy sheep's milk cheese, or sharp and velvety like our Caws Cenarth Caerffili, we've something for everyone.

We'll also be adding more cheeses to the range as we discover them, so keep an eye out for new additions.

*Something on the side?*

The goodies don't stop there either. We've buttery organic Pimhill oatcakes, moreish chutneys like hot pear and ginger or ploughman's pickle, and refreshing organic grapes and apples so you can make the tastiest cheeseboard possible.

We hope you'll give it a try, and as ever, if you have any feedback, please let us know.

*Happy seasonal eating! Contact Chris and Alison Moruzzi on their local office number, 01639 772846.*

## Future's new orangery roof system

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"Most of our work comes via recommendation because of our quality workmanship.

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# SOUTH WALES BUSINESSMAN TACKLES EVEREST FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY

**by Leigh Gruffydd Sanders**

**WAKING up in a small hut with no electricity to find that your only source of drinking water has frozen is not a situation that most of us would expect to be in come March.**

Yet this is what faced south Wales businessman Tim Leeke after he agreed to become one of 12 hardy climbers who trekked up Everest to Base Camp to raise money for the NSPCC in Cardiff.

"It was at a family get together at Christmas that it was first mentioned," explained Tim in an interview with The GEM. "My cousin Emma was already in the second year of a two-year fundraising project for the NSPCC and I was happy to help.

"I knew three people there – my cousins Emma and Chris, and my friend Andy who is a Llanblethian boy.

"We all met up before so I could get to know people and they were a great group to do it with."

With a hardy bunch of explorers at his side, including Cardiff Blues chairman Peter Thomas and Welsh Rugby Union supremo David Pickering, Tim began his ascent of the world's largest mountain.

"What hit me first was the altitude – the lack of air, that is," he said. "It was really hard to get used to. You can't train for altitude until you're there. It affects everybody differently. I guess it's just kind of luck, how your body is made up.

"I was often breathless and I developed a cough too, due to swallowing dust. There was dust everywhere, especially when the yaks went past – they'd blow huge clouds up for you to walk through.

"I also had a bit of a dodgy stomach for a few days which was especially uncomfortable when walking. That caused me a bit of angst!"

Particularly at the beginning, Tim wasn't missing out on the fine weather we were experiencing in Wales.

Far from it, in fact; in the day at least.

"We were very lucky with the weather a lot of the way up. It was warm enough to wear shorts on the first few days.

"But it got very cold at night, and these 'tea houses' you stayed in weren't heated. It got so cold that some people's water carriers would freeze and they'd end up with big chunks of ice in their water the next day."

*The group reach destination Base Camp.*

The terrain was also constantly changing, and you could never rest on your laurels or you risked getting caught out by what was around the corner.

"We began by trekking on paths," he explained. "They were only two or three feet wide, and then it would change.

"You would be clambering over boulders for a few hours. Then there were some really narrow paths and then you would be trekking through forest. It kept you on your toes!"

They began to reach their destination after a few days' trekking, and Tim described his relief at finally seeing the end in sight.

"When we got towards Base Camp I just felt great relief and a real satisfaction for what I had achieved. I had got to the highest point I could have hoped to.

"All that's there is a stone marking that it was Base Camp, and further on there is a tented area for those climbers trying to reach the summit. There's nothing really to do or see. We were there for half an hour and then turned back to trek down to a settlement to acclimatise.

"To go further, you need to be a professional as you're going to be going through ice fields and the like, so you can't go any further than Base Camp without buying a permit for £20,000 or £30,000.

"You've also got to have the Sherpa guides with you because it's so treacherous. For these reasons I'd never consider going higher."

The group then descended back to Kathmandu by helicopter, as most had commitments to return to in south Wales. But Tim said that he had spent enough time on the mountain to take home plenty of memories to his family.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience and I would recommend it to anybody. It was really, really tough but has given me many great memories! We took hundreds of photos of our trip."

He also had a few tips for any would-be Vale explorers looking to follow in his footsteps.

"I'd say take your walking boots, proper walking boots! Make sure they fit properly.

"If they give you grief you've had it! I think it's quite amazing that the entire time we were trekking none of us had blisters!

"I'd also say little things like baby wipes and antibacterial hand gel. There's no running water the closer you get to Base Camp so it's always handy to have things like that with you."

But the main reason Tim and his group were tackling Everest was to benefit others.

He finished by explaining where the money raised would be heading.

"It's always a pleasure to help disadvantaged children. A lot of the money goes towards the NSPCC's work in Cardiff – the 'Building Brighter Futures' program and their Diane Engelhardt House in the city. We also had a lunch and charity auction before we went."

He also added that he wasn't looking at continuing his burgeoning climbing career any time soon.

"I've got a wife and two young children at home, so I was lucky to be able to get the two weeks I had. I'm already indebted to my wife for that!"

If you would like to donate to Tim or any of his companions to aid their cause, you can find donation pages at: www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TimLeeke (Tim), http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/leekeseverest (Emma and Chris) and http://www.justgiving.com/JonesytoEverest (Andy).

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# Porthcawl pupils receive Jubilee medals

**Report and photos by KEITH E MORGAN**

*The Porthcawl Queen s Diamond Jubilee commemorative medal.*

*Diamond Jubilee medals were presented to pupils at Porthcawl primary schools, including (above) Newton Primary.*

*RIGHT: Pupils at Nottage Primary.*

*BELOW: Porthcawl Primary School pupils with their medals.*

**AS a start to the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, all Porthcawl's schoolchildren are to be presented with an exclusive and unique commemorative medal.**

The limited edition medal has been designed and procured by Lindsay Morgan, with the support of Porthcawl's own Queen's Diamond Jubilee events team, of which he is chairman.

Following consultation with various children's groups and parents within the town, the majority of the committee felt the new medal best represented a tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, and provided a solid investment for the future.

The obverse of the rare and solid metal medal, which is hung on a red, white and blue ribbon, carries the Porthcawl Town Council Coat-of-Arms, while the reverse displays the official Queen's Diamond Jubilee emblem.

The latter emblem was designed by 10-year-old Katherine Dewar of Chester, who, out of nearly 35,000 entries, won the Buckingham Palace and BBC *Blue Peter* national competition for the official emblem of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The limited edition medal, of which 3,000 have been struck, has been financed with the help of a large contribution from Porthcawl Town Council.

Medals have already been presented to all the schoolchildren attending Porthcawl's four primary schools (New Road, Nottage, Porthcawl and West Park).

At individual ceremonies, representatives of each class at each school were presented with medals by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs, her consort Bill Stubbs, Lindsay Morgan and representatives of the Porthcawl Queen's Diamond Jubilee Events Team.

The headteacher of each school was also presented with a medal for that school by the Mayor.

Arrangements are also in hand for all the students at Porthcawl Comprehensive School to be presented with commemorative medals.

# Join in the Porthcawl Jubilee celebrations!

**PORTHCAWL will be the place to be during the first week of June as the people of Porthcawl celebrate the 60-year reign of Her Majesty the Queen.**

Lindsay Morgan and his enthusiastic Diamond Jubilee committee have spent many months planning and fundraising to ensure that the folk of Porthcawl have a week to remember.

Young and old alike are being catered for as the programme of events is revealed.

It is not too late for you and your organisation to take part in any of the events and you are particularly invited to the three days to be held at Porthcawl rugby ground, South Road from June 2-4.

Perhaps you could exhibit information about your activities and help to 'meet and greet' the public on those three days? Perhaps you have talent and would care to take part in the stage entertainment?

Or perhaps you can organise an eight-man team for the popular 'tug of war' contest.

There is already a lot arranged that includes both male and female rugby, a teddy bear's picnic for the younger children, and a fayre for all to enjoy.

If you cannot directly participate you may wish to make a donation to Porthcawl Jubilee Committee *(email: cmorte@hotmail.com)*.

Several special Diamond Jubilee features are being organised during the week (the full programme will be published shortly) that will include the presentation of commemorative medals to all school children in Porthcawl.

There will be a lighting of beacons at Rhych Point and Hutchwns Point at 10pm on Monday, June 4, as well as traditional fireworks at Sandy Bay.

A tribute to Harry Danell will take place at the Pavilion on Friday June 8, with a ecumenical service of celebration also there on Sunday June 10 at 6pm.

Let us know what you can do to help make this a very special occasion.

Come to the launch of the Porthcawl Diamond Jubilee Song at the musical evening to be held at Trinity Church Hall on Monday, May 7, at 7.15pm for further details.

**CLIVE MORT**

*Pupils at West Park Primary.*

# Launch of the Porthcawl Song!

**A FREE musical evening, to include the launch of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 'Song for Porthcawl' will take place at Trinity Church, John Street, Porthcawl, on Monday, May 7, at 7.15pm.**

The song has been created by Mr Barrie Wilson, the musical director of Porthcawl Choral Society, and will be performed by the choir as their contribution to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

**Did you know you can read your GEM online?**
*bridgend-today.co.uk*

## WHATS ON - in brief

***Charity walk***

*TWO Cancer Research Wales charity walks, at Margam Park, on May 5-6, will be held from 10.30am to 1.30pm.*

***Model trains***

*COYCHURCH models group meets on May 13 at 2pm in John Williams Memorial Hall, Main Street, Coychurch, Bridgend.*

*Various models with railways of all gauges. For further details, contact Bernard Honeysett on 01446 736033.*

# MP welcomes home troops from Libya

**MADELEINE Moon MP joined welcome home celebrations at the House of Commons to thank members of the armed services for their involvement in operations to support UN resolution 1973 in Libya.**

**Members of the RAF, Royal Navy and Army paraded into the House of Commons, accompanied by a band, to be welcomed by MPs and staff.**

**This was followed by a reception and a fly-past of aircraft involved in the operations.**

**Madeleine said: "As convener of the RAF section of the All-Party Armed Forces Group, and a member of the Defence Select Committee, I was delighted to be able to thank members of the RAF and Royal Navy who gave their time to enforce the no fly zone over Libya and protect civilians.**

**"The day was Parliament's way of conveying our thanks to the personnel, and by extension to their families for the hard work during operations and their selfless dedication.**

**Many of them had spent a long time away from home and this was a small way of showing our appreciation."**

# Cup final awaits Pencoed Seconds

**THE Maesteg Harlequins are to be applauded for fulfilling this Mid Glamorgan District League One semi-final at Pencoed with just 13 players, Pencoed coming out on top 24-0.**

Suprisingly it was the 'Quins' who had the better of the opening quarter in terms of possession and terrritory, Dean Henson putting in a big hit in the shadow of the Pencoed posts to keep the visitors out.

Pencoed then gradually came into the match, going close on two occasions through wing Jamie Williams and scrum half Tom Davies.

The home side opened the scoring after 23 minutes, Davies throwing a long miss pass to work full back Tom Cross clear to sprint over wide out.

Cross then repaid the compliment, breaking into the visitors' 22 for the supporting Davies to score, Cross converted for a 12-0 lead at the break.

Pencoed increased their lead early in the second half, Davies getting his second try in the corner.

*ABOVE: Dean Henson clears out the ruck.*

*RIGHT: Tom Cross touches down for Pencoed.*

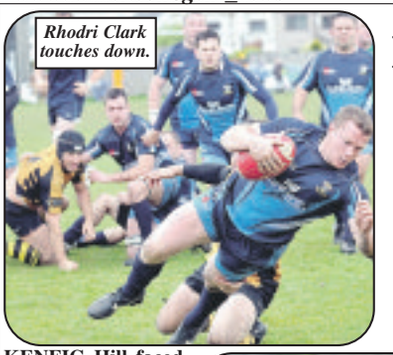
*PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIE HANCOCK*

The home side then got their fourth try, outside half Lyndon Griffiths triggering off his backs some 60 metres out for Cross to put left wing Robert Spears away and over wide out, Griffiths adding a fine conversion.

Shortly afterwards the Quins were reduced to 12 players following a nasty injury, and proceedings were curtailed at this juncture with the home side leading 24-0.

On Saturday Pencoed Seconds meet Maesteg Celtic Seconds in the Mid Glamorgan League Division One final at the Dairy Field, Llanharan, 1pm kick off.

**TR**



*Rhodri Clark touches down.*

## Disappointment... but Mules can reflect on a very good year

**KENFIG Hill faced Cwmllynfell in mid-week as the original match was cancelled due to the visitors' cup commitments.**

Kenfig Hill outplayed Cwmllynfell, who were third in the league, and who needed a win to have any chance of catching the Mules.

Despite bad weather conditions, the Mules played some scintillating rugby to win 34-13

Try scorers for Kenfig Hill were Matthew Tossell, Ben Jones, Marc Fitzgerald, Sam Richards, Raymond Evans and Rhodri Clark.

**Kenfig Hill Firsts v Skewen**

Kenfig Hill lost narrowly in a ding-dong match in Skewen, a hard-fought battle between two evenly-matched sides, with the Mules missing several chances which would have given them victory.

**Final score: Kenfig Hill 10, Skewen 15.**

*Gareth Edwards leads the charge for Kenfig Hlil. PHOTOGRAPHS by PETER GILLING.*

Kenfig Hill's points were scored by Rhodri Clark (a try, conversion and penalty).

Glynneath won at Aberavon Quins which gave them the league title.

Despite the disappointment at Skewen, this was another fine season for Kenfig Hill, finishing second in Division Two West after being promoted from Division Three last season.

The players worked hard all season with everyone striving to improve every game.

Coach Nigel Evans was outstanding and he was ably assisted by Brendan Roach and fitness coach Byron John.

**Kenfig Hill 2nd XV 53, Tonmawr 17**

This was the semi-final of the play-offs for the District League Premier Division.

Scorers for Kenfig Hill were Dale Smith (four), Sam Richards (two), Mark Jenkins, Lloyd Giles (plus four conversions) and Lewis Morgan.

*Mules man of the match was Lloyd Giles.*

The seconds will play Heol-y-Cyw in the League Play-Off final on May 5, after Heol Y Cyw beat Llanharan 26–23.

**GO'S**


# Difficulty Hearing?

**Scott Wroe Hearing Centre is an Independent hearing aid practice that has been established in Penarth for over 8 years.**

The Centre has access to the very best hearing aids on the market and due to the standards and dedication of the practice it has received recognition by becoming a 5 Star Phonak Approved Centre and the first hearing practice in the UK to become a Widex Approved Centre.

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# Bridgend actress tells viewers to be prepared for shock

**ACTRESS Lauren Phillips believes viewers will be surprised with the response of her character Sara Harries in the Sunday night drama series Gwaith Cartref , when the truth begins to emerge.**

"It surprised me when I read the script," said the 31-year-old actress from Bridgend. "But then the series writer Roger Williams and the production team at Fiction Factory tend to come up with the unexpected. It's as if they've decided that Lauren is starting to look too comfortable playing Sara and needs another twist in her life story! But then, that's why I'm enjoying the challenge so much."

Lauren has been playing Sara for four years in two S4C drama series Caerdydd and Gwaith/Cartref. During this time, the highly conscientious and intense teacher in Bro Taf School has been on an emotional rollercoaster ride.

"She has had a complex love life. Viewers have seen her get married and divorced, have a relationship with a bisexual man, and lose her best friend, the Welsh teacher, Emyr. She now thinks she's found the perfect partner in Dan James, a man who could offer a stable and loving relationship – but she's about to get a rude awakening. Her reaction will be an eye opener for everyone."

Lauren has been playing the teacher at a critical time in her life – between 27 and 31 years old: "We've both grown up together and have both had important, albeit different, experiences over this time.

"Many women have planned their lives by the time they reach their 30s. That's true about many of my friends – although not for me. It can be difficult if people don't realise their dreams and that's what's happened to Sara.

"Some of the problems have opened my eyes to unfamiliar life-changing experiences, such as divorce, death of a close friend, adoption and the boundaries in the teacher-pupil relationship at schools."

There's one further twist in the tail – Lauren's boyfriend is Rhondda Valley actor Huw Rhys, who plays Sara's on-screen boyfriend Dan James. Is that difficult for them, given that Dan is having a passionate affair with fellow teacher Grug Matthews (Rhian Blythe)?

*LAUREN PHILLIPS: viewers are in for a surprise...*

"No, because we never bring our work home with us. Huw and I believe that we can keep work and leisure separate as professional actors. We are more likely to discuss what colour we want to paint our new kitchen than discuss Sara and Dan!"

The couple, who have been together for the past two years, are working on different scripting ideas.

"We do have a great deal in common. Although I was brought up in Bridgend, one side of my family is originally from Ynys-y-bwl, just across the valley from Huw's home valley, Rhondda. We're very close to our families; we have had a similar upbringing and our own communities inspire us."

Lauren, who played the character Kelly Evans in the soap series Pobol y Cwm for some years, is also a professional dance tutor. She runs Hiphop and Dance classes at Bridgend, Cardiff and Newport.

"Dancing and being a dance tutor are great ways to relax after a stressful day acting. I've been dancing since I was very young and it was only later at secondary school in Llanhari that I became interested in acting.

"I never thought that someone of my ordinary background would win a place in a performing academy, so I was shocked when I got a place in LIPA, the Liverpool academy. I had thought of training as a physiotherapist," she says. My grandmother, who used to sing in amateur opera productions and had a brilliant voice, was the only one that has shown an inclination to perform in my family. I may have got my passion for acting and dancing from her."

Lauren says that she prefers reading to watching TV. Among her favourite authors are Markus Zusak and Cecelia Ahern, and her favourite book is the autobiography of actor Michael J Fox. She's currently reading the Harry Potter novels.

But getting back to Sara, what would she like to see happening to the character? "That's easy, to see her settle down and have a family." And Lauren? "Continue to act, dance and write, having challenging roles such as Sara and the opportunity to work in London at some point."

## *Musical treat with Bridgend Youth orchestra*

**THE talented Bridgend Youth Orchestra will be performing at Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, formerly Ynysawdre Comprehensive School, on Friday May 11, at 6pm.**

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Children's Directorate, the evening will feature orchestras, string ensembles, wind and junior big bands playing a varied programme of music, ranging from 'Beauty and the Beast' and selections from 'A Hard Day's Night' by The Beatles, to Tchaikovsky's 'Mazurka' from Swan Lake.

Bridgend Music Service has continued to thrive, with over 1,600 pupils currently learning to play musical instruments in schools each week and almost 300 attending weekly rehearsals.

*Tickets are £5/£3 concessions. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Jeff Ryan on (01656) 642658, or email: jeffrey.ryan@bridgend.gov.uk.*

## Cancer support coffee morning

***MAESTEG Library is holding a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday May 11 at 10am.***

*Come and have a chat over a coffee and a slice of cake. With all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support, you will have a great time in aid of a worthy cause.*

*Macmillan Cancer Support helps to improve the lives of those affected by cancer including carers, families and communities, through providing practical, medical and financial support.*

*There are plenty of opportunities to socialise at the library, with great activities on offer for everyone. These include chatting about books as part of the reading groups, delving into local history with Maesteg Local Historical Society, and bounce and rhyme sessions where parents and carers can have a chat and sing-along.*

*Visit: www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries, or contact: blis@bridgend.gov.uk.*

## Patterns, colours, and shapes at Nantymoel

**THE Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel, is exhibiting the artwork of retired architect-turned-artist Peter Millis until May 25.**

The artwork includes the use of patterns, colours and shapes to create soul-searching designs, applied in acrylic on canvas and boards.

The Berwyn Centre is an important hub for arts in the local community, with a number of activities taking place; including a fortnightly art club, where the group focuses on creating original works of art and art appreciation.

The centre also provides a platform for budding artists as it hosts regular art exhibitions featuring the work of artists from the local community, which is also available to buy.

This includes the annual open art exhibition in October, which celebrates the varied and talented work of the local professional and amateur art communities.

*If you are an artist who is interested in exhibiting your work, please do not hesitate to contact the centre at: www.bridgend.gov.uk/berwyn, 01656 754915, or email: Berwyn.centre@bridgend.gov.uk.*

***The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan***

*Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012*

# Counting the days to the Eisteddfod...

**ON Thursday, April 26, we celebrated 100 days to go before the start of the National Eisteddfod.**

In just over three months time, the eyes of Wales will be on the area with 150,000 visitors flocking to one of the world's greatest festivals.

The 100 days to go mark is an important milestone in the project, and to celebrate, Eisteddfod staff went out and about in the Vale to talk about the festival and to distribute information.

This time we were joined by Fireman Sam, who proved a great hit in both Llantwit Major and Cogan, Penarth, when he met local children.

First stop was the Cylch Meithrin at thre Western Vale Integrated Children Centre, where Fireman Sam enjoyed a warm welcome, with some of the children dressed in Fireman Sam jumpers.

It was a chance to talk to parents about some of the special offers available for visitors to the Eisteddfod, including the three days on the Maes on the price of two and the early bird discount ticket offer, while Sam was distributing Eisteddfod stickers.

Then it was off to Cogan Nursery School in Penarth, where the children have been working on a project about the Eisteddfod with their teacher Mr Thomas.

The work undertaken by the school on the history of the festival is fantastic, and with the school currently shortlisted for a Wales-wide heritage award, we very much hope that the work will be on display at the welcome pavilion in the Eisteddfod, so all our visitors can enjoy the wonderful project.

Community involvement is an important part of the Eisteddfod project. Many local people are members of the Eisteddfod choir, which will perform at the UK premiere of Karl Jenkins' latest work, *Bards of Wales*, with Dennis O'Neill and Rebecca Evans on Saturday, August 4.

Having been rehearsing every week for many months, the concert on the Pavilion stage will be the pinnacle of this community project.

Local children are also gearing up for 'Only Vale Kids Aloud', a choir of primary school age children from the Vale, who will perform in the opening concert with Only Men Aloud, and Only Boys Aloud – who are currently waiting to find out if they'll make it into the live shows on *Britain's Got Talent*.

If the boys, brought together for the opening concert at the 2010 Eisteddfod do make it into the finals, we'll be supporting them all the way, and looking forward to seeing them on stage on August 3.

*For more information about the Eisteddfod, including tickets for all the concerts, go to www.eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the ticketline, 0845 4090 800.*

### *Phrase of the week*

*For those of you following the phrase of the week, in conjunction with The GEM and Bro Radio, this week's phrase is a must for anyone thinking of voting in this week's local elections – or wanting to show their support for Only Boys Aloud –* ***Rwy'n cefnogi****... (Roo-een kev-nogg-ee...) which means 'I support...'*

***DDYDD Iau, Ebrill 26, roeddem yn dathlu 100 diwrnod i fynd cyn cychwyn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Ymhen ychydig dros dri mis, bydd llygaid Cymru gyfan ar y Fro, gyda 150,000 o ymwelwyr yn heidio i un o wyliau mawr y byd.***

*Mae 100 diwrnod i fynd yn garreg filltir bwysig yn y prosiect, ac i ddathlu, aeth staff yr Eisteddfod allan am y diwrnod o amgylch y Fro, i siarad am y Brifwyl ac i rannu gwybodaeth. Y tro 'ma, roedd gennym ni gwmni go arbennig – Sam Tân – a gafodd groeso mawr yn Llanilltud Fawr ac yn Cogan, Penarth, pan fu'n cyfarfod plant lleol.*

*Cawsom fynd i Gylch Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr i gychwyn, lle cafodd Sam dipyn o groeso – gyda rhai plant yn gwisgo siwmperi Sam Tân yn arbennig i'w groesawu. Cyfle i gael sgwrs gyda'r rhieni a sôn am rai o'r cynigion arbennig ar gyfer ymwelwyr i'r Eisteddfod, gan gynnwys tridiau ar y Maes*

*and bris deuddydd a'r prisiau gostyngol ar docynnau sy'n cael eu prynu ymlaen llaw, tra roedd Sam wrthi'n brysur yn dosbarthu sticeri.*

*Yna, ymlaen i Ysgol Feithrin Cogan ym Mhenarth, lle mae'r plant wedi bod yn gweithio ar brosiect am yr Eisteddfod gyda'u hathro Mr Thomas. Mae'r gwaith ar hanes yr Eisteddfod yn wych, ac mae'r ysgol ar y rhestr fer am wobr dreftadaeth dros Gymru ar hyn o bryd. A rydym yn falch o ddweud y bydd cyfle i bawb fwynhau'r gwaith hwn gan ein bod yn gobeithio'i arddangos yn y Ganolfan Groeso yn ystod yr wythnos, fel bod ein hymwelwyr i gyd yn cael cyfle i'w fwynhau.*

*Mae cynnwys y gymuned yn ein gwaith yn rhan hollbwysig o'r prosiect. Mae llawer o bobl leol yn aelodau o Gôr yr Eisteddfod, a fydd yn perfformio premier Prydeinig gwaith diweddaraf Karl Jenkins, Beirdd Cymru, gyda Dennis O'Neill a Rebecca Evans nos Sadwrn, Awst 4. Wedi ymarfer am fisoedd lawer,y cyngerdd ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn fydd pinacl y prosiect hwn.*

*Mae plant lleol hefyd yn edrych ymlaen i fod yn rhan o 'Only Vale Kids Aloud', côr o blant oed cynradd o Fro Morgannwg, a fydd yn perfformio yn y cyngerdd agoriadol gydag Only Men Aloud, ac Only Boys Aloud – sy'n disgwyl i gael gwybod os y byddan nhw'n ymddangos ar sioeau byw y rhaglen Britain's Got Talent ar hyn o bryd. Os y bydd y bechgyn, a ddaeth ynghyd drwy broseict arbennig ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod 2010, yn cyrraedd y rownd derfynol, fe fyddan ni'n eu cefnogi nhw tan y diwedd, ac yn edrych ymlaen i'w gweld nhw ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod nos Wener, Awst 3.*

*Am ragor o wybodaeth am yr Eisteddfod, gan gynnwys tocynnau i'r cyngherddau, ewch i www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu ffoniwch y linell docynnau, 0845 4090 800.*

***SIONED EDWARDS***

## Wales YFC launches 'next generation' youth project

**MEMBERS of Wales YFC representing the Glamorgan and Clwyd YFC federations recently visited the north Wales Buffalo Farm and Reaseheath College as part of a new Wales YFC project supported by the Rural Youth Trust.**

The 'Next Generation' project aims to establish junior rural affairs committees within YFC county federations in the hope that these members will go on to represent their federations on the Wales YFC rural affairs committees in later life, and to represent Wales YFC at external meetings and activities.

The project also aims to provide the junior members with opportunities to learn through experience and practical interaction within the agricultural industry.

At the north Wales Buffalo Farm, 11 members learnt about buffalo farming and how the business started, as well as learning how the business has adapted over the years, changing from producing milk to meat, the marketing of the product, the on-farm butchery and the plans for the future.

Following the visit to the Buffalo Farm, members travelled on to Reaseheath College for an overnight stay and taster sessions for the various courses available to study at the college, including agriculture, countryside, engineering, animal management and the routes members can take to achieve a qualification.

Wales YFC Rural Affairs Committee chairman, Marc Jones, said: "This project is all about enthusing the junior members of Wales YFC about rural affairs.

"I hope to see many members involved in the project representing Wales YFC at various events and meetings in years to come."

# OLD FRIENDS ARRIVE IN COWBRIDGE

*The twinning event was a massive success.*

**OLD friendships were renewed and new ones formed last weekend when Cowbridge Town Twinning Association welcomed guests from Clisson, in the Loire-Atlantique region of France.**

As part of a busy schedule, the French visitors lunched at Parc y Scarlets on Sunday, where an unexpected extra treat dropped by – in the shape of rugby legend Phil Bennett!

Heavy rain during the visit failed to dampen spirits, which were kept firmly up by several excellent meals, culminating in a grand farewell dinner and dance.

The association is 21 years old this year, and many members have built close relationships over the years with families in Clisson.

*New members are always welcome (single as well as couples or families). For full details, see: www.cowbridge-twinning.co.uk, or email: andrew@cowbridge-twinning.co.uk.*

**CT**

# Amazing orchestra on the keyboard

**THE April meeting of St Hilary WI was held in the Village Hall, where the president, Betty Thomas, read out thank you letters received from the guests invited to the Institute's 80th birthday party.**

It would appear that everyone enjoyed the evening and many congratulations were received.

The guest speaker was Penny Weedon, who entitled her talk 'An Orchestra at my Fingertips'.

No-one had any real idea what this would entail and all were enthralled by the extremely engaging performance with which they were entertained.

The 'orchestra' in question was, in fact, a state of the art electronic keyboard and Penny took us on the fascinating story of her life through her almost total immersion in the world of music and musical instruments.

She started piano lessons at the age of four and, subsequently, had tuition on violin, cello, classical guitar and church organ.

There were many amusing anecdotes to accompany such a varied upbringing.

What was even more amazing, however, is the incredible versatility of the modern electronic keyboard. It really is an orchestra all in one instrument.

Penny was able to replicate such instruments as violin, recorder, guitar, church organ and even a choir.

This is just a taster of what she was able to do with her keyboard, as there is virtually no style that can't be replicated.

A truly memorable evening was brought to a close with the usual delicious supper.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8 and will include a discussion on this year's resolutions.

**SD**

# Latest bridge results

**THE latest results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club are as follows:**

Monday April 23 (22 pairs): First – Marion and David Stephenson, 68.83 per cent; second – Mary Moore and Tony Disley, 67.10 per cent; third – Mike Best and Kevin Maddox, 60.21 per cent; fourth – Margaret Price and Alan Grant, 57.29 per cent; fifth – John Henson and Dennis Smith, 55.56 per cent; sixth – Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock, 53.13 per cent.

Please note that the club will not open on Monday May 7 due to the Bank Holiday.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian) – club night (14 pairs): First – Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts, 65.87 per cent; second – Barbara and Colin Easterbrook, 58.73 per cent; third – Teri Pollard and Anne Hughes, 52.78 per cent; Joint fourth – Pat and Brian Swain, and Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs, 51.59 per cent; sixth – Pauline Lane and Dennis Barker, 50 per cent.

The Friday afternoon bridge event will take place on May 4 and 18.

**Brian Swain**

# Open day

**JANE HUTT, AM for the Vale, joined the Amelia Trust Farm open day to welcome visitors and partners from local organisations and businesses who were learning more about the important work of the Trust.**

Among those who attended were representatives from Asda and Tesco, the Parc Prison, Legal and General, The Prince's Trust and local farmers.

She congratulated the farm on its work, and especially welcomed the European-funded project supported by the Vale Volunteer Bureau, to meet the needs of young people supported by the Amelia Trust Farm.

# Keen competition in round three of summer championship racing at Llandow Kart Club

**ROUND three of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship coincided with the second qualifying event for the 2012 Dragon Challenge – now being shared with Dunkeswell – and saw 77 drivers in action across 10 classes.**

The six-strong Bambino class all achieved the gold standard by posting laps under the target time of 60.9secs. For the record, the pace was generally set by Jakob Chamberlain, who posted the benchmark in three of the four outings, with Brooklyn Thomas edging the other by 0.02secs.

For the first time, the entire class enjoyed a collective presentation, with the MSA steward handing out the awards to a delighted sextet.

The decision to combine both Cadet classes produced a massive 28-kart grid and a lot of entertainment. Llandow members Tom Rawlings and Lewis Griffiths shared Comer honours in the heats, but it was the visiting Tommy Foster who came out on top when it mattered most, leading the entire field across the line in the final to edge Griffiths by a tenth of a second, with Rawlings completing the podium.

The larger Honda category produced three different heat winners, with Ross Thomas, Hugo Holmes and Dunkeswell's Ryan Luscombe seeing the flag first, and it was DKRC who snatched the glory in the finale, as Luscombe again crossed the line in front.

Thomas and Holmes continued their strong weekends by finishing second and third respectively, with Stuart Ferguson, Ethan Ling and Joshua Martin also picking up silverware.

Honda Junior continued to feature four drivers, but a slightly altered entry saw rookie Patrick Hill on track in place of the absent Ainsley Shea-Godden. It was a familiar story up front, however, as Ben Stevens claimed a clean sweep of heats and final, while Tom Ford and Thomas Croydon swapped second and third places before taking those positions respectively in the final.

Ross Chell may not have appeared on the weekend's initial entry, but returned to disappoint those hoping to make the most of his absence.

The three heats proved closer than the finals, as Ryan Edwards, Joe Phillips and Joshua Webb all finished within a second of the reigning class champion, but Chell had things more his own way in the final, coming home 2.1secs clear of the chasing Yousuf Ashraf, while Phillips completed the top three, fending off Edwards by a couple of tenths at the line.

A stronger Minimax contingent, prompted by three visitors from DKRC, saw four drivers tacked on to the Junior Max grid. The more experienced Sam Stephens and Ryan Nutland set the pace, while lone LKC representative Ceran Sokhi battled over third in class with David Spiller, but Stephens had to overcome a third heat DNF before bouncing back to win the final.

Dunkeswell also claimed Junior Max honours as Sam Morgan won every time he ventured out. Rob Ellis provided his sternest opposition, despite not featuring in the heat three results, and eventually took the runners-up trophy ahead of Toby Allen to add to his maiden LKC championship win from March. Elliot Hagerty and Oliver O'Flaherty rounded out the class.

Simon Evans continued his winning ways in Senior Honda, but found renewed opposition in the shape of Nick Turley, who claimed top two finishes in each of the heats, including a win second time out.

Despite having to also chase Gareth Lewis home in that same outing, Evans duly claimed the remaining heats, and then produced the biggest winning margin of the afternoon as he romped to a seven-second success in the final.

Lewis claimed second place to hand Turley his worst result of the day, while Danny Griffiths headed Nigel Hughes at the tail of the top five.

Senior Rotax was a little down in numbers compared to recent events, with 11 entries spread across two weight categories, and that was all that Matthew Dowers needed to stamp his authority on proceedings.

With reigning champion Chris Davis among the missing, Dowers claimed a clean sweep of victories, despite the close attention of David Entwhistle in the opening heats and Sebastian Hutchinson in the third.

However, a mid-race retirement denied Hutchinson in the main event, while Entwhistle could only manage fourth place as Ashley Lewis took up the role of chasing Dowers, eventually coming home second, with Dilip Singh completing the podium.

Wayne Stone and Simon Wheeler shared Max 177 heat wins, but this time it was Wheeler who had the upper hand, converting a brace of early successes into a win in the final.

**RESULTS:**

**BAMBINO – Gold Award**
Jack Broughton (Birel)
Jakob Chamberlain (Birel)
Shayne Clarke (Zip)
Matthew Rees
Brooklyn Thomas
Olly Thomas (Birel)

**CADET COMER**
1. Tommy Foster (Zip)
2. Lewis Griffiths (Zip)
3. Tom Rawlings (Zip)

**CADET HONDA**
1. Ryan Luscombe (Project One)
2. Ross Thomas (Wright)
3. Hugo Holmes (Zip)

**JUNIOR HONDA**
1. Ben Stevens (7Kart)
2. Tom Ford (Biz)
3. Thomas Croydon (Jade)

**JUNIOR TKM**
1. Ross Chell (Jade)
2. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade)
3. Joe Phillips (Jade)

**MINI MAX**
1. Sam Stephens
2. Ryan Nutland (Intrepid)
3. David Spiller (Tonykart)

**JUNIOR ROTAX**
1. Sam Morgan (Alonso)
2. Rob Ellis
3. Toby Allen (CRG)

**SENIOR HONDA**
1. Simon Evans (7Kart)
2. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)
3. Nick Turley

**SENIOR ROTAX**
1. Matthew Dowers (Kosmic)
2. Ashley Lewis (CRG)
3. Dilip Singh (CRG)

**ROTAX 177**
1. Simon Wheeler (CRG)
2. Wayne Stone (Tonykart)

**Best Novice:** Ian Margrain (Project One) – Honda Cadet

**Driver of the Day:** Sam Morgan (Alonso) – Junior Rotax

**Craig Llewellyn**

# Satisfying win in the opening First XI fixture

**FOR the first match of the 2012 cricket season, Cowbridge First XI travelled to Gorseinon on an overcast day more in keeping with winter than spring.**

It's a great feeling to get that first win of the season, particularly away from home, and so it was for the First XI on Saturday.

This victory was due mainly to the fine performances of the two players making their league debuts for the club; Amin Ramly and Faris Rosmanizam – students at the University of Glamorgan.

Mike Lloyd, skipper for the day, won the toss and put the home side in to bat. This was a crucial decision owing to the unpredictable behaviour of early season pitches, and so it proved.

The home side were soon in trouble with the score 41 for 7, but a patient innings of 31 runs from Chris Richards helped by Chris Morgan (16) and a quick 14 from Rob Morgan helped the score to 92 off 47 overs.

The damage was done initially by Ali Bilal (4-34 in 15 overs) and Ryan Taylor (2-20 in 11 overs). They opened the bowling together just as threateningly as they did on a number of occasions last year.

After their spells, Amin, with his medium pace, and Faris, with his off spin, took up the attack. No other bowlers were required.

Amin was particularly impressive and returned figures of 3-25 in his 13 overs; Faris took 1-19 as they finished off Gorseinon for 92 on what proved to be a particularly unpredictable wicket.

Seven catches were taken altogether: two for Andy Finucane, two for Amin, two for Adam Wood and one for Chris Willey.

Cowbridge scored the required runs in 30 overs, but it was not easy on this wicket.

The home bowlers knew their wicket well and made it as difficult as possible for their opponents. However, when Faris got to the crease the score was 29 for two after 15 overs and there was still much to do.

Adam Wood (15) remained with him and helped him to move the score along to 82 and Alex Kurobasa (eight) stayed until the target was reached.

Faris was 42 not out at the end and appropriately scored the winning runs. He hit six fours in his innings that was notable for his fine timing and delicate late cuts. It was particularly satisfying to witness a middle order batsman playing with considerable confidence and undoubted skill.

Sam Wood (14) kept wicket impeccably, but it was the debutants who caught the eye on this occasion with bat and ball as they contributed hugely to a fine team victory.

The Second XI home match was postponed until a later date; next week, a trip to Llanelli for them.

Next weekend the First XI have a home match against Llanelli hoping to continue the good work.

A warm welcome is extended to all cricket supporters; lets pray that the weather also responds in kind.

**DL**

# First Minister backs the 'Cake Break' campaign

*The First Minister is backing the Cake Break campaign.*

**THE First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones AM, is lending his support to MS Society Cymru to help promote Cake Break on May 4.**

Cake Break, sponsored by Wright's Baking, is a deliciously easy way for everyone to fundraise for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, while enjoying lots of cake, guilt-free.

Cake Break is taking place in MS Week (April 30-May 6), which aims to raise awareness of the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults.

Judi Rhys, Director of MS Society Cymru, commented: "Cake Break is such an easy way to help raise money for a worthwhile cause, there's no excuse not to take part – who doesn't love cake?"

*If you would like to sign up, please contact MS Society Cymru on 029 2078 6676.*

# Under-13s close in cup final

*ABOVE: Cowbridge Town AFC under-13A lost to Sully under-13A in a tremendous cup final on April 27 at Jenner Park, Barry, losing 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw after extra time. Both teams were fantastic and congratulations to Sully. The Cowbridge boys would like to thank everyone for all their support on the night.*

# Mixed days for the Bees

**BARRY Bees under-9s travelled to Llanishen to play three touring London Welsh teams.**

The first match against a very strong and physical London Welsh team saw the Bees get off to a blistering start, with Cian Anderson putting in a huge tackle on the biggest of the London Welsh players.

From the resulting turnover, the Bees stormed onto the attack through Isaac McBride, before Cian finished in the corner. The London team were clearly taken aback at the ferocity of the Barry play and Seb Fahiya smashed his way through the middle of the London defence to make it 2-0.

London Welsh began to come to terms with the pace of the game and were able to use their power to make the score 2-1 at the break.

The Bees upped the tempo again in the second half and Cian scored a fantastic solo try from deep inside his own half.

Again the tourists responded well and forced their way over to make it 3-2; but another great try from Cian made the final score 4-2 after an excellent all-round team performance, leaving the illustrious tourists in no doubt about the quality of Welsh rugby.

The Bees were even stronger in the second match, and played some great free-flowing rugby despite the conditions.

The tries were coming thick and fast, with Cian and Ethan Watkins scoring good tries, and hard-running Cole Saunders and Harrison Kelly making inroads into the London defence.

London Welsh again responded well and pulled a try back. This was followed by an excellent individual try from James Chapman after he pounced on a loose ball.

Charlie Bale and Morgan Taylor showed some of their best form of the season, with ball in hand and in defence. The game was finished with a flourish with a try from Jake Lang, who forced his way through the defence, and two excellent trys from Jacob Pereira. In the dying seconds London Welsh scored a break-away try to make it 6-2.

In the final match the rain had increased in intensity, making it very difficult to play any constructive rugby. London Welsh were determined not to let Barry get away with the white wash, and used their physical advantages to the full.

The London team scored the first try with a well-worked move, and the Bees were now playing catch up. After an extended period of pressure, with Rhys Lloyd nearly forcing his way over, flying winger Spencer Williams scored a great try in the corner.

Barry continued to press with strong tackling from scrum half dynamo Stephen Williams and elusive winger Taylor Ross-Zeal. Again the Bees were camped on the London Welsh line, but a spilt ball was picked up by a London player who was able to run the length of the pitch to score, despite an excellent chase from Seb.

At 2-1 down the pressure was on the Bees, but in ever deteriorating conditions Barry were struggling to move the ball; and the game became a physical contest which better suited the London team, who managed to hold onto their 2-1 lead.

Overall it was a great day of rugby despite the atrocious weather. The Bees now have one more test when they travel to Abergavenny for the final tournament of the season.

*Squad: Rhys Lloyd, Jacob Pereira, Isaac McBride, Ethan Watkins, Charlie Bale, Morgan Taylor, Cole Saunders, Spencer Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Cian Anderson, Stephen Williams, Taylor Ross-Zeal, James Chapman, Jake Lang.*

**JM**

# Richie and Peter take darts doubles title

**THE Barry Darts League doubles tournament had a brilliant turn out.**

**In the last 16:** T Stephens and S Oliver bt A Shields and R Gratton; Divi and J Kerr bt C Harris and M Stranger; M Petty and J Lambert bt N Williams and D Walters; A Baker and R Miles bt R Dyer and M Copeland; S Nettleship and M Cooke bt A Williams and B Kilgour; M Bennett and R Mathews bt P Mathews and P Dibble; R Way and J Hurn bt S Moggridge and M Andrews; P Snook and R Williams bt C James and T Overton.

**In the quarter-final:** Tony and Stuart bt Divi and James; Ashley and Ron bt Mark and John, Simon and Mark bt Mike and Ray; Peter and Richie bt Ray and Jon.

**In the semi-final:** Tony and Stuart from the Station Hotel (Penarth) beat Ashley and Ron from The Runaways (Rhoose). Richie and Peter from the Drifters beat Simon and Mark from Dartonians.

The final winners of the league doubles 2012 were Richie and Peter who came out on top 4-1!

This Friday is the Premier Cup semi finals: Westend v Three Bells; Station Hotel v Plastic C.

**NW**

# Westend looking for youth players

**WESTEND Ladies Netball Club will be starting a youth team within the coming weeks and are looking for young, keen netball players who would like to join.**

This will be a new team and all girls aged 12 and over are welcome, from beginners to the more experienced.

We have qualified coaches who are CRB checked, and we also have four qualified first aiders.

Training night is a Monday at Bro Morgannwg Barn from 7–9pm.

*For more information call Leigh-Anne Jones on 07727 180512.*

# Barrivale results

**Latest results from Barrivale:**

Tuesday, April 17: First – Irene Thomas and Jane Brook, 60.94 per cent; Second – Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas, 59.9 per cent; Third – Denis Mottram and Graham Jones, 57.29 per cent.

Celia and Huw won on handicap.

The AGM was held on Tuesday April 24 when the retiring committee was, once again, re-elected.

The Bill Shore Trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Hilary Laurence.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 25th birthday with a buffet, birthday cake and a teams event, results as follows:

First – Helen Jordan, Maureen Charlton, Jane Brook and Denis Mottram, 31 IMPS; Second – Mike Best, Mick Green, Carol James and Eileen Hughes, 29 IMPS.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

**MB**

## Motoring with Tim Saunders

# LIFE ON THE OPEN ROAD – IN THE LIFESTYLE 624

**WHAT do the radio DJ Johnnie Walker and the comedian Marcus Brigstocke have in common? They are both motorhome fanatics.**

While Mr Walker has toured Europe in his Auto-Trail Cheyenne 630 LB, Mr Brigstocke enjoys family holidays to France in his. He told the Daily Mail: "My daughter's fondest memory wasn't our visit to Disneyland Paris, but 'waking up in the can', as she put it."

The unique selling point of a motorhome is that you can set up home where ever you wish without the hassle of pitching a tent or looking for a decent hotel.

It's called wild camping – and as long as there's enough gas and water it's a comfortable experience. We visited the Isle of Wight where it was possible to find free parking in a plethora of lay-bys.

A 45-minute crossing from Portsmouth to Fishbourne with Wightlink was just enough to make us feel like we had travelled abroad and the right amount of time for Harriett, who enjoyed being on deck and watching the waves tossing against the side.

*The Lifestyle 624 motorhome.*

Our home for the week was the Lifestyle 624, manufactured by Marquis Motorhomes in conjunction with Swift.

The five-berth vehicle uses a Fiat Ducato cab and a capable and efficient Fiat Multijet diesel 130bhp engine, coupled to a six-speed gearbox. It easily returned around 600 miles on a tank.

This sub-£40,000 model was loaded with equipment, making it feel a very good value proposition. The cabin was equipped with air conditioning and electric windows, together with a good quality stereo. Comfortable and luxurious chenille fabrics made for a particularly cosy homely environment.

Typically we made sure that we were out and about before 11 o'clock, having prepared our packed lunches in the kitchen with its ample surface space. While I made sandwiches, baby daughter Harriett thoroughly enjoyed rearranging the floor standing cupboards and generally creating mayhem.

One day we returned from a bracing walk to Ventnor and really fancied a hot chocolate. No problem, we just fired up the Thetford cooker and boiled some milk, really quickly *(watch the video at www.travelwriter.biz).*

Our longest stay was at Ventnor (two days), which we fell in love with because of its proximity to the beach and some stunning walking routes. We parked at the roadside directly outside the park and bowling green.

When the motorhome ran out of water it was easy to fill up the watering can in the public conveniences at the park. And when the cassette toilet needed emptying where else could be better to do this when not on a campsite? The Lifestyle's cassette toilet was fitted with wheels and an extending handle, making it so much easier to transport. However, I did get some odd looks on walking through the park with it, although I hoped that passers-by might think it luggage…

Come night we tried to keep to a strict routine so that little Harriett could stick to her usual sleeping pattern but this is always difficult on holiday.

Anyway, we usually rustled up something to eat at around 5.30pm each day. No culinary delights here, instead tinned ravioli and spaghetti stretching to a fry up on one occasion.

Living in a motorhome makes you much more aware of your fuel and water consumption, if for no other reason than you know it is not endless – there was a 65-litre fresh water tank.

Consequently, washing up was done under the trickle of cold water to ensure that there was enough Calor Gas for heating and hot showers.

The Lifestyle's shower room was well set out, particularly when comparing it to the Nuevo II, for instance, which I tested last year.

There seemed much more room in the Lifestyle, where passengers could walk throughout, even into the cabin, which was a helpful feature when Harriett, sitting in her car seat at the rear, wanted food or her teddy.

She slept in the double bunk above the driver's cabin but insisted on waking up at 3 or 4am for a feed, something she had stopped doing at home. We put this down to a change in surroundings.

Our less comfortable bed was created by manoeuvring the seats in the centre of the vehicle. It was useful that the dining table formed part of the base of the bed, meaning that it didn't have to be stored in a cupboard as in the Nuevo II. Bed making was done quite quickly.

A motorhome really is a marvellous way of travelling with a young family.

*Price: OTR £39,881, save £1,386, offer price £38,495!*
*Engine: 2.3-litre diesel,*
*Economy: 600 miles on a tank,*
*Power: 130bhp,*
*0-60mph: don't push it!*
*Top speed: it'll cruise at 70mph with the best of them.*
*Watch the videos at www.testdrives.biz.*

# Llantwit pupils enjoy football tournament

**THIS year's inter-school football tournament was played recently at St Illtyd Primary School.**

The competition didn't start well for the hosts as they came up against a well-drilled Rhws team, the reigning champions, who won 5-0 despite strong performances from three year-6 pupils.

A hard-fought match followed that saw Eagleswell beat St Athan 3-2.

A superb lobbed goal saw St Illtyd score their first goal of the tournament against St Athan and they took the lead into half-time thanks to strong performances.

It was different after the break, however, as a string of superb saves were made to keep St Athan at bay.

Two late goals were scored as St Illtyd tired.

It was, therefore, left to the final round of matches to determine the winner. Rhws came from behind to secure the point they needed to retain the title while St Illtyd beat Eagleswell 5-3 thanks to strong performances from the team, including a hat-trick, to ensure St Illtyd finished with a win.

Congratulations, and thanks go to all the teams, especially Rhws for regaining the trophy.

# Bluebirds' racing syndicate can now celebrate a big win

**NINE Cardiff City football supporters, headed by former Cardiff City player Scott Young, who formed a horse racing syndicate called Bluebirds Racing, had plenty to celebrate when their horse, *Captain Sharpe*, a four-year-old chestnut gelding, won at odds of 10-1 at Cheltenham last week.**

One member of the syndicate Tim Jones, a former leading amateur rider who was the first jockey to win a race on the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner *Norton's Coin*, told me: "We are just a bunch of regular Cardiff City supporters and the syndicate is headed by former City star Scott Young, who will be remembered for knocking Leeds out of the FA Cup."

One of the syndicate's members is a dentist and another is a bin-man, but all have one thing in common – they are Cardiff City supporters.

*Captain Sharpe,* a handicap hurdler, is trained at Bargoed by Bernard Llewellyn and was ridden by his stable jockey and grandson Robbie Williams, who won last season's amateur riders' flat championship, and is one of Wales' most promising young jockeys. He was selected earlier this year to race in the USA, and has hopes of winning this year's amateur riders' jump jockeys championship.

Robbie's mother Beth is a former succesful amateur rider, as is his uncle John Llewellyn, who is assistant trainer to his father Bernard Llewellyn, well known in horse racing circles.

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| 4 yard | £105 | £90 |
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Prices not inc. of VAT or permit, if required.

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together with piano stool, excellent condition, bought from new, length 142cm, height 110cm, maxi width 52cm.
£1,600
*Buyer to collect*
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**Fender Stratocaster Guitar**
Cherry Red, Standard Fender Pickups, Good condition, 60th Anniversary Model (Mexico) - £340
**Marshal Amp MG15FX**
Rarely used, lots of features, including store facility - £65
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## Public Notices

**AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003**

To whom it may concern.

We, **Barry Athletic Ltd** do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a **Premises Licence** at **Paget Road, Barry Island, Barry** known as **Barry Athletic Club Ltd.**

The application is to vary the club premises certificate to allow the supply of alcohol and regulated entertainment between the hours of 1200 and 2300 and to permit music and dancing on permitted occasions.

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

**AJ Oliver, Chairman**
**27th April, 2012**

## Family Notices

**RICHARDS**
**Cheryl Ann**

Martin, Mavis, Scott, Philippa and Andrew wish to express sincere thanks for the many cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received following their sad loss. A special thanks to the staff of Ward 6, Princess of Wales, Bridgend, for the love and devotion shown to Cheryl during her time there, and also to the staff of Holme Tower Hospice, Penarth, for their continued support. Thanks to the Reverend Chris Seaton for the beautiful service to celebrate Cheryl's day and to all those who attended the service. Thanks also to Green Willow Funerals for their sensitivity and help to the family.

*God bless you all.*

**PATRICIA MALIA**
(1935 - 2012)

We, Pat's long standing partner, Dennis and her children, Richard and Helen, thank most sincerely her many friends for their kind tokens of support, not only since her passing but during her long illness.

She will be fondly remembered for her kind, gentle and cheerful disposition and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

## Birthdays

JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE

**Happy 12th Birthday JOE BAKER on 5th May, 2012**

Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Abigail and all the family.
*x x x*

To a very special Daughter and Sister **HANNAH** on your 16th Birthday

Love Mum, Dad (Steve), Andrew, Emily and Faye
*x x x*

**Happy 16th Birthday Hannah Louise**
on 7th May
With all our love
Uncle Phil, Auntie Sue, Luke, Carly, Aaron, Kirsty, Ava & Great-Gramp xxx

16 16

**Hannah**
**Happy 16th Birthday**
7th May 2012
You are a Very Special and Wonderful Granddaughter.
Loads of Love, Nan, Grandad and Great-Gramp xxx

## Thank You

**HEADS FIRST**

After 24 years Avril is taking a well deserved retirement and Niki is delighted to be working with Lauren at Hair Design.

Best regards to our wonderful customers and thank you for your loyalty over the years.

See you next door but one in Island Road.

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| 10 | RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 HATCH DYN TT | EXTREME BLUE | £9500 | £8600 |
| 11 | RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYN TT 1.5 DCI | EXTREME BLUE | £13000 | £12500 |
| 12 | RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 HATCH DYN TT | MERCURY | £11495 | £10500 |
| 11 | RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 VVT DYN TT | BLACK | £11500 | £11000 |
| 58 | RENAULT TWINGO GT 1.2TCE | MERCURY | £6500 | £5800 |
| 11 | RENAULT CLIO 1.2TCE DYN TT | BLACK | £9500 | £9000 |
| 11 | RENAULT WIND 1.2 TCE | BLACK | £10500 | £9999 |
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| 60 | PEUGEOT 207 1.4 | SPORT GREY | £8000 | £7250 |
| 08 | HONDA CIVIC 2.0 TYPE R GT | RED | £10500 | £10000 |
| 09 | SEAT IBIZA SE1.4 SPORT | RED | £6999 | £6500 |

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His love affair with all things motoring came to premature end because of his reckless driving; but for those of us who want to get out and about in the car for days out, short breaks or holidays in the next few months, being properly prepared can save a lot of frustration.

The last thing anyone wants is to embark on a long journey, only to break down and be delayed for hours at the roadside.

It is essential that you are properly MoT-ed. In January 2012, the MoT test changed to include new pieces of equipment such as warning lights and airbags.

You should make sure you have passed the MoT well in advance of an important journey, because if you fail a couple of days before you are due to go away, time can be short for a garage to order that essential part.

The motorcycle MoT is slightly different to the one for cars and vans, but still has to be passed once a year.

An AA spokesman advised: "People need to make sure they have the right tyres on their vehicle; that they are in good condition and correctly inflated. These requirements are vital for braking and cornering safety.

"It is good to pick a quiet time to take your car along for an MoT, service or check.

"Garages can be busy places, particularly first thing in the morning as vehicles are dropped off on the way to work and in the evening as they're collected on the way home.

"If you need to discuss anything with the garage try to pick a quieter time – late morning or early afternoon perhaps.

"Be specific about what you want done and get an estimate.

"If it's a 'service' you want then tell the garage the car's age and mileage so they can match it to the manufacturer's schedule.

"You need to ask for an estimate too. Particular items like brake fluid, the timing belt or antifreeze may need changing depending on the mileage so costs can vary quite a lot.

"On the other hand, if it's a 'standard'or 'menu' service you're booking then you should check yourself if any additional items are needed or ask the garage's advice."

When driving abroad, the following check list includes items you will need: GB sticker; headlamp beam converters; a warning triangle; a high visibility jacket; a first aid kit; and a fire extinguisher.

Toad of Toad Hall's motoring career came to a sorry end.

However, if you follow the AA's simple advice you will have many years of happy driving on the open road!

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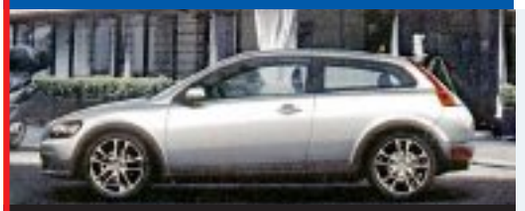

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# GEM sport

# Porthcawl RFC edge encounter against the Police

**PORTHCAWL recorded the double over the Police at South Road on Saturday but the 14-9 score-line was achieved in less than the convincing fashion of recent victories.**

That said, the match never really got going as both sides fell victim to the almost continuous sound of the whistle that ruined the contest as players, officials and supporters from both sides were left not a little disenchanted.

With Porthcawl missing the presence of lock Ian O'Keefe who was sidelined with a foot problem, it was the visiting eight, well drilled by Paul Standing, who showed the greater urgency, aided by a decent enough back division.

The first half was a dour affair as the only score was a penalty from R. Miles, which though hardly an advantage, did make the Police good value for their lead, as the home side just didn't click into any meaningful gear.

The second half was somewhat better, at least for the way in which the home side clawed their way back into the match, following Miles' second penalty which put the Police 6-0 ahead on 55 minutes.

Danny Shore, back at flanker earned just reward for a solid performance with a try converted by fly-half Tim Richards as Porthcawl edged in front at 7-6.

*Danny Shore going into contact.*
*PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS*

With the penalty count for the match rocketing skyward, it was Miles who stepped up to slot his third goal for a narrow 9-7 lead again but with the Seaweeds showing the odd flash of promise, it was the ever-reliable Ollie Jones at full-back who stepped up to scorch over from 40 metres for the defining score, again improved by Richards for a 14-9 advantage to Porthcawl at full-time.

The Police will feel aggrieved at not having taken more from the match, while Porthcawl simply were not the points scoring machine of late, with clinical finishing having taken a day off.

The Seaweeds visit bottom club Blaengarw on Wednesday before rounding off the season at home to Rhigos on May 12.

**TW**

*Ollie Jones with Steve Phillips in support.*


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# ATH SECONDS IN HOPE FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

**BRIDGEND Athletic Second XV completed an excellent season in the National League for second XV's.**

They recorded their third successive bonus point win with a 29-8 away victory over the students at UWIC .

They currently top the table with 70 points and lead Beddau by 12 points – but Beddau have to play a further 3 games – so it is fingers crossed in the Athletic clubhouse.

In the league they have played 18, won 13 drawn 1 and lost 4 games, scoring 566 points for with 268 against and a favourable try count of 72 to 33.

In a total of 22 games they have scored 700 points for and 334 against. Tom Parry was the leading point's scorer with 147 points, with Rod Davies's 9 tries just pipping Lloyd Pemberton's 8 as the leading try scorer.

Harry Griffiths, Nathan Holman and Andrew Tyler played in 16 of the 18 league games.

Bridgend Athletic had first use of the Cyncoed slope. UWIC launched an early attack and were passing along the Athletic 22 when centre Rhys Ward Jones intercepted and raced 80 metres for the opening score. Outside half Tom Cole converted.

Cole then kicked a penalty to increase the lead to 10-0. The Athletic were testing the students with wings Johnny Nation and Andrew Tyler making some strong runs.

They deservedly increased their lead when Jamie Doherty won a line out and scrum half fed wing Nation in the outside half position.

Nation scythed through the defence and threw a long pass to centre Lloyd Pemberton who ran in from thirty metres to cross in the corner.

UWIC finished the half strongly and only desperate defence with Harry Griffiths, Sean Derrick, Simon Mustoe and Nathan Holman prominent kept them at bay.

Prop Wayne Fookes then offended in the red zone and received a yellow card. UWIC kicked the resultant penalty on the stroke of half time to reduce their deficit to 15-3.

The students made their numerical numbers and the slope count at the start of the second half and attacked strongly.

However, excellent defence by centres Jones and Penberton led to them changing their tactics, opting for the unusual sight of UWIC using the rolling maul as their main weapon.

Lock Chris McGrath put in a good tackle just outside his 22, full back Lyndsey MaCausland picked up and ran strongly beating a number of players before just being overhauled 5 metres from the try line.

From a resultant 5 metre scrum the Athletic launched a series of forward thrusts at the try line. Eventually scrum half Tom Davies spotted a gap and dived over for the third Athletic try.

Cole converted to stretch the lead to 22-3. The Athletic then brought on fresh legs with Owain Evans, Gareth Davies and Nick Jones joining the battle.

Within minutes Evans was on the try sheet. Cole made a break chipping ahead inside the students' 22 and gathering to feed Jamie Doherty who provided the scoring pass to Evans for the bonus point try that could prove vital in the Athletics' quest for the Championship. Cole converted to stretch the lead to 29-3.

To their credit UWIC did not lie down and were rewarded with a deserved try for lock Ed Curtis. Following the try there was a mass brawl ending in Athletic flanker Ben Howe and his opposite number seeing red.

Team manager Liam Griffiths then brought himself on to calm the situation. However, his first act of conceding a penalty for a high tackle belied his well-known reputation as a "peacemaker".

It was a fitting end to the season that influential captain and hooker Nathan Holman brought proceedings to an end by kicking the ball out of play after the referee declared the final play.

He has played in a number of positions to help out the team, and has the distinction of the only drop goal by the team this season-although with a four man overlap it was questioned at the time.

The team have played exceptionally well these two season's of the inaugural National League and now hope that Beddau fail to overhaul them in the run to be championship winners this season and better last season's third place.

**AB**

## Members enjoy new driving range

***LEFT: Captain Barrie Edwards, Oliver Rudd and Ken Elson pictured at the drive-in.***

# New captain gets in the swing at Pyle & Kenfig

**It is 90 years since Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club was founded.**

Little did the original members realize that their club would go on to be one of the foremost in Wales with such a well regarded course of high reputation.

The back nine holes in particular are considered by many to be the finest in the whole country. At approximately the same time, Ken Elson was born. He is now the oldest playing member of P&K and still plays several times a week at the age of 90. Long may he continue to do so.

There is also a landmark for the club in another matter - it has just opened a new covered driving range where members can practice all year round, in all weathers.

The club captain, Barrie Edwards, decided to hold the traditional drive-in on this new driving range. In fact, on the day and to celebrate the opening of the new driving range, there were two additional drive ins.

The first was Ken Elson, mentioned above. His swing was quite educational: short and controlled and it sent the ball straight down the middle as the old Bing Crosby song has it. The cheers could be heard in the town of Porthcawl.

Next up was a golfer from the opposite end of the age spectrum. Oliver Rudd is 9 years old and is the captain's grandson. Oliver demonstrated how fluid and flowing a golf swing can be and his strike was straight out of the sweet spot.

With cries of "follow that" ringing in his ears the nervous captain then took to the mat. He had spent a sleepless night worrying that he might have an air shot (which is the golf euphemism for completely missing the ball).

However, contact was good and the ball went a long way down the range. It veered somewhat to the left with Barrie claiming that this was a deliberate draw but others unkindly suggested it was a hook!

Celebrations continued back in the clubhouse where drinks and sandwiches were served.

The club is noted for the warm welcome given to new members and visitors.

*To contact Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club please contact the secretary's office on 01656 783093/771613 or e-mail secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk.*

**JM**

# Kenfig fight to the end

***ABOVE:***
***Kenfig Hill RFC (with Tom Briggs, pictured above) were hoping for league glory as the season reached its climax - find out how they fared on page 22.***